THE

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN *is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above 14,000 copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.*

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As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN *is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.*

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. STRONG, 68 *Wall Street, or No.* 823 *Broadway, New York,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.*

A FEW DAYS AMONGST OUR WOUNDED.

NEW YORK, *May* 24, 1864.

DR. FOSTER JENKINS, *General Secretary,*
U. S. Sanitary Commission:

MY DEAR SIR—Pursuant to the request of the Standing Committee, I beg leave to present the following informal report (necessarily imperfect from the haste with which it has been prepared,) of the organization and operations of the relief system of the Commission in N. E. Virginia since the opening of the present campaign.

I left New York on the afternoon of Tuesday, May 10th, for the purpose of making a personal examination of the working of the Commission for the aid and relief of the wounded by the battles of the Wilderness and Spottsylvania. At Washington, I learned that the wounded had collected in immense numbers at Fredericksburg, and were already being transported to Belle Plain, on their way, by hospital transports, to Washington and Alexandria. Up to Sunday night, the 8th, everybody in Washington expected that the wounded would be sent to the rear via Rappahannock Station and the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, and to this end great preparations had been made by the Quartermaster's Department under advice from the Medical Bureau. Immense trains of cars, with a full corps of surgeons, were sent out to the Rappahannock Station on that day.

There they waited until the next day, when, it having been ascertained that the wounded were already in very large numbers at Fredericksburg, the trains were ordered back to Alexandria.

I make this introductory statement with some precision, since it furnishes a key to the difficulties which attended the care of the wounded at Fredericksburg during the

period from May 8th to Thursday, May 12th.

Fredericksburg is about ten miles from Belle Plain, and as the railroad from Aquia Creek had been thoroughly destroyed, the most direct and available access to the thousands of wounded already gathered at the former place, was via Potomac Creek and Belle Plain Landing. The rebels had long ago destroyed the wharves at Belle Plain, but during the 8th and 9th of May, most vigorous efforts were made by the Quartermaster's Department to prepare a temporary landing. To this landing, on Monday and Tuesday, (9th and 10th of May,) came a fleet of transports conveying ordnance stores, fighting rations, hospital appliances, and means of shelter for the incoming wounded. The dock, a most creditable structure, considering the time within which it was built, but, perhaps, hardly large enough for the demands made upon its capacity, presented a fearful scene when I arrived at Belle Plain on Wednesday afternoon.

I found one of our supply barges, the Kennedy, at the dock, and Dr. Steiner directing the operations of the Commission. Down the right-hand side of the U-shaped dock, slowly moved a single file of army wagons filled with wounded men; at the end or corner of the dock, by the gangway of a large Government transport, stood that most efficient and admirable officer, Dr. Cuyler, Acting Medical Inspector General, U. S. A., receiving the wounded, and superintending their removal from the wagons to the deck of the transport, preparatory to their transfer to the hospital steamboats that lay in the offing. After each wagon had deposited its living freight, it passed around the end of the dock to the lef-thand side, and there took in ammunition or fighting rations, the orders being imperative to return to the front only with full loads of these indispensable supplies. Crowding along the narrow margin of the dock were continuous lines of men carrying litters and stretchers on which were such of the more severely wounded as had been removed from the wagons at the hospital tents, on the hill-side above the plain. Hour after hour, for several days, was this fearful procession kept up. It would not be proper for me to state how many thousands thus passed under Dr. Cuyler's inspection, but I cannot forbear mentioning the most distinguished zeal, energy and self-devotion with which his arduous duties were performed. His administrative skill, his quick and ready humanity, his almost ubiquitous presence, his self-denying exposure to the pelting rain, while laboring to secure prompt shelter to the wounded, his night work and day work, his personal attentions to even the little wants and minor discomforts of each individual sufferer, were the subjects of universal admiration. Dr. Brinton, (Medical Purveyor of the Army of the Potomac,) was also there, working with vigor in the difficult undertaking of forwarding medical supplies to Fredericksburg.

By the end of the pier lay the barge Kennedy, the storeboat and headquarters of the Commission. Here, as elsewhere, every thing was astir. Gen. Abercrombie, commandant of the post, was making it his temporary headquarters. Out in the stream, amid a promiscuous collection of transports, lay the steamboat Rapley, loaded with stores from the Washington storehouses of the Commission. Near her lay the barge Washington, with a load of army wagons and horses for the Commission's service. After great difficulty, and the exercise of no little ingenuity, the stores from the Rapley were put ashore, half a mile up the creek in small boats, and the wagons loaded and sent to Fredericksburg. Capt. J. W. Clarke, of the Quartermaster's Department, and Capt. Lubey, 15th Regiment New York Engineer Corps, gave us most cheerful and essential aid in this work. Indeed, from all the officers at the post of the Commission we received nothing but kind services and expressions of the heartiest good-will. Captains Pitkins and Lacey, of the Quartermaster's Department, provided every facility in their power, and from General Abercrombie and Colonel Cuyler, down, every body seemed to take pleasure in aiding us. From Monday the 9th, until this time, incessant exertions have been made by the officers of the Medical, Quartermaster's, Commissary's and Ordnance Departments, to remove the wounded from the rear of the army and replenish the

trains for forward movements. No one at home can form any idea of the labors of the officers in these departments, day after day and night after night, oftentimes living meanwhile on the scantiest subsistence, such as coffee and crackers, and these hurriedly taken. We are oftentimes loud in our praises of military commanders for achieving victory, but seldom give due credit for the result to the quartermasters, who work with almost superhuman energy at some base of supplies, and on whose talent, energy and fertility in resources the very existence of the army depends. The agents of the U. S. Sanitary Commission formed no mean feature in this scene of energy and successful labor. Up to May 21st, the Commission sent nearly 200 tons of sanitary stores, including stimulants, farinaceous food, beef stock, condensed milk, bandages, &c., from Belle Plain and Fredericksburg. It will be interesting to note the fact here, that the relief service of the Commission has involved, since Gen. Grant crossed the Rapidan, and Gen. Butler went up the James River, the use of four steamboats, three barges and two schooners, for the transportation of its stores from Washington to Belle Plain, and from Baltimore to Norfolk, the latter being the Commission's base of supplies for Butler's army.

At Belle Plain, in addition to a relief station on the barge by the wharf, the Commission has maintained a corps of relief agents at a feeding station near the hospital depot, providing food for thousands of weary and hungry men who arrive there in ambulances and wagons, and another at White Oak Church, half-way from Belle Plain to Fredericksburg, where hot coffee, soft crackers, and beef soup, have been issued to wounded and disabled men on their way to hospital, many of whom have not tasted food for hours.

The operations of the Commission at Belle Plain, including the movements of trains of supply wagons, have been conducted by Mr. F. N. Knapp, whose experience in every branch of relief service has made his name the synonym for energy and beneficence wherever the Commission is known.

At Fredericksburg, the Commission's work under the able direction of Dr. Douglas, Chief Inspector, is three-fold: First, there is a large storehouse on Commercial Street, under the care of Mr. Johnson, from which, since the 9th of May, about 200 tons of sanitary stores have been issued to hospitals upon the requisitions of surgeons. Secondly, a corps of relief agents numbering from 160 to 225, under the leadership of Mr. Fay, divided into squads and assigned to the various division hospitals. These relief agents report the wants of the hospitals to Mr. Fay, perform the duties of nurses, and seize every opportunity to minister to the complicated and various necessities of the wounded, as indicated by the advice or orders of the surgeons in charge of them. Thirdly, special diet kitchens under the administration of Miss Woolsey, Mrs. Gen. Barlow and Miss Gilson, while Mrs. Gibbons and daughter and Mrs. Husband, lend their expert services to the hospitals. The special diet kitchens are tents with ample cooking arrangements, pitched on the roads from the front to Fredericksburg or Belle Plain. From these, soup, coffee, stimulants, soft bread and other food are issued to thousands of passing wounded. With the army, seven four-horse wagons carrying food, stimulants, underclothing and surgical dressings, constantly move under the direction of Dr. Steiner, the Commission Inspector for the Army of the Potomac, and Mr. Johnson, whose services at Gettysburg, and now at Fredericksburg, form a bright record in the special relief work of the Commission. I should say here that these wagons moved with the army from Brandy Station, dispensing stores during the battles of the Wilderness, and then, passing with the wounded to Fredericksburg, went on to Belle Plain to re-load.

The Commission has now forty odd four-horse wagons of its own, carrying sanitary stores from Belle Plain to Fredericksburg. On Monday, May 23d, thirty-one of these wagons, carrying nearly forty thousand pounds of sanitary stores went in one train from Belle Plain to Fredericksburg. On the same day, our steamboat, the Rapley, in charge of Mr. Anderson, with the barge Kennedy in tow, cleared from Belle Plain and went up the Rappahannock to add

still more largely to our supplies. Our work then for the sick and wounded of the army of General Meade may be summed up, briefly, as follows: 'Two steamboats and two barges for conveying sanitary stores from Washington to Belle Plain; forty-four four-horse wagons for conveying sanitary stores from Belle Plain to Fredericksburg and the front; over two hundred tons of sanitary stores sent to Belle Plain and Fredericksburg; over 200 trained relief agents lending their best energies to the hospitals and feeding stations. The outlay for the month of May, so far, has been over one hundred thousand dollars for the Army of the Potomac alone. You will remember that all these operations are in addition to what is being done by the Commission at Washington, for General Sherman's army, and at New Orleans and on the Red River.

I should say, that at Fredericksburg the medical affairs were under the able management of Dr. Dalton, Medical Director, while large numbers of medical men from Boston, New York, Philadelphia and elsewhere, served day and night in the hospitals, aiding those devoted men, the army surgeons, in their exhaustive and most serious and self-denying duties. Who can sum up the value of the services of the army surgeons? Who can describe in becoming phrases a tithe of what they do for the thousands of suffering men thrown upon their care and skill by the fearful casualties of an active campaign. I never witness their conduct without a sense of the profoundest admiration and a renewed conviction that the best work of our Commission is that by which we endeavor, even in an humble way, to strengthen their hands by supplementary assistance.

Sincerely yours,

C. R. Agnew.

U. S. Sanitary Commission,
Belle Plain, *May* 15, 1864.

My Dear Dr. Jenkins—I cannot condense within the limits of such a note as can be written now, an account of the operations of the Commission at this point. You know the relations of Belle Plain landing to Fredericksburg; it is, in brief, that of a temporary base. The fearful accumulation of our wounded at Fredericksburg made it imperative to open communications again with sources of supply, and this point was selected. A temporary pier, in the form of a U, was hastily constructed on Monday, at the terminus of the Fredericksburg wagon road. Over this pier and road a mingled crowd of army wagons and ambulances, stragglers and walking wounded, has passed since Monday last, forming a spectacle beyond description. We are using every hand and heart to their utmost power to meet our responsibilities to the wounded. We have used, in the transportation of our sanitary stores, two steamboats and two barges. The Rapley, a fast steamboat, of about 150 tons, is plying constantly between Belle Plain landing and Washington. She is chartered to convey stores by us, and carries not only stores, but constant additions to our Field Relief Corps. We have over two hundred active and able men in this corps, who give themselves night and day to the work of feeding the wounded, both at Fredericksburg and at Belle Plain landing.

The dock space here is so inadequate, that the landing of our stores has been a work fraught with immense difficulty. This difficulty is increased by the character of the ground near the base of the pier. Wagons cannot turn, except on the dock, and even then they must move in a continuous single line around the ∩. Owing to this peculiarity, there was on Wednesday a "jam" of wagons, loaded with wounded, all along the road from the landing to Fredericksburg, a distance of eight or ten miles. These wagons bring in wounded and carry out ordnance stores and fighting rations. During this jam, and, indeed, ever since, we have been compelled to convey our stores in small boats up Potomac Creek a considerable distance, to a point on the shore where the wagons can get across, and thus escape, to as great a degree as possible, the stagnation and confusion of the landing.

A barge arrived on Thursday with four additional four-horse wagons and eighteen horses, in addition to our previous stock of twelve wagons and forty-eight horses. It was necessary to put these wagons overboard, and obtain a gang of twenty colored men to drag them ashore to a point from

which the horses could haul them. Capt. J. W. Clark, a noble specimen of the Quartermaster's Department, gave every facility and furnished the gang of men.

Just as this work was done, the Rapley came down with a load of stores, and, not being able to get to the pier, discharged into pontoon boats, furnished by Captain Timothy Lubey, 15th Regiment N. Y. Engineer Corps, aided by a gang of laborers furnished by Captain Clark.

It has required constant ingenuity and forethought to surmount these and similar difficulties; and yet we have sent thirty four-horse wagon loads of condensed milk, beef stock, woolen clothing, stimulants, crackers, &c., &c., to Fredericksburg, over a most horrid road.

By a rough estimate, I suppose the amount of sanitary stores sent forward since Tuesday to be about 35,000 pounds. To-day we have sent for six additional four-horse wagons and twenty-four horses, so that our train will consist of about twenty-two wagons and nearly one hundred horses.

We have a stationary barge here at the landing; a large feeding station also, where thousands of men have received coffee, or punch, or crackers; and a special relief corps, consisting of students from Princeton and Union Theological Seminaries, and the Episcopal Seminary of New York, with others from Boston, New York, Washington, &c., &c. This relief corps is mainly operating at Fredericksburg, under Mr. Fay; say about 130 at Fredericksburg, and the balance at the feeding station here. I give these numbers in round terms, as the roster is not at hand at this moment. My figures will not vary half a dozen from the actual number, and I have endeavored to under-state rather than over-state. We are endeavoring to gain upon the demands at Fredericksburg, but as yet the calls are fearfully beseeching and exhaustive. Ten wagon loads of stores, sent on Wednesday to Fredericksburg, were issued in less than four hours. This will serve to show the demand. I go to Fredericksburg to-day, not having been able to move from this point since my arrival on Wednesday. Dr. Steiner, our Chief Inspector for the Army of the Potomac, has been here, hard at work, since Tuesday; and Mr. Knapp takes charge, from to-day, of the whole scheme of special relief and supply work. I cannot now say more; but must, before I close, say just one word concerning that noble, self-sacrificing man, Col. Cuyler, M. D., U. S. A., who has conducted all the operations for the removal of the wounded by the hospital transports. I should fail in any attempt to describe his services. Day and night he has worked, not only in directing the movements, but in dressing wounds and giving personal and ingenious attention to the comfort and safety of the pressing crowd of the weary, wounded and exhausted. Dr. Cuyler is ably assisted by Dr. Thurston, Staff Surgeon.

But not a moment remains to re-read this or add more. Still the clatter, and rush, and confusion continue, and I wonder how I have managed to write even as much as this. Love to the brethren.

Yours affectionately,

C. R. Agnew.

N. B.—I must say further, that our barge lies next to that of the Medical Purveyor; the old flag is flying, and we constitute a general intelligence office and mail agency. Yesterday a bushel and a half of letters were deposited in our box by the soldiers for those at home. We send off one mail a day, and pay for such soldiers' letters as are not prepaid. Gen. Abercrombie, the commandant of the post, made our barge his headquarters for twenty-four hours, and we have furnished tents for the quarters of several of the principal officers forming the military establishment at the landing. Our agent is out taking names at Fredericksburg for the Hospital Directory.

Yours, C. R. A.

—

Dr. Steiner writes, May 23d:

We are now twenty-five miles from Richmond; have been in the saddle every day since we left, living as best we can on the army rations and such few articles as could be picked up on the road. We are now halted at Carmel Hill Church, and expect to cross the North Anna River this afternoon.

Dr. Stevens reported yesterday, and was ordered to follow Abbott, in the 9th Corps, to turn over his wagon to him and then to devote himself to his special business in the 9th Corps and whatever other corps might

be next him. Thus far I have kept with the 5th Corps. Harris having been detailed on other duty, I have been deprived of my ordinary assistant in keeping up the communication. I am, however, satisfied that the work is being well done.

3 *o'clock, P. M.*—I have just come down to the North Anna; the army is just crossing. No opposition has been offered. The fight is expected to take place somewhere about Hanover Court House.

6 *o'clock, P. M.*—The rebels have made their appearance in the woods, and have attacked our troops hardly in line of battle, with great vigor and spitefulness. Happening to be within ten feet of the rear of the line of battle when the musketry opened, Mr. Marsh and I had a splendid opportunity of hearing A. P. Hill's bullets and shells. *We* didn't avail ourselves of the privilege for a very long time, but beat a retreat to the river, re-crossed, and reached the hospitals of the corps, which had just been established by the medical officers. The result of the battle of North Anna was the frustration of the rebel design of destroying one of our corps, our driving them about a mile from their field of battle, leaving two hundred and twenty-four wounded and a few killed, and taking about three hundred prisoners. This morning the rebels have disappeared.

The 6th Corps crossed last night to support the 5th—*our corps*, as I now call it. Hancock crossed somewhere below yesterday, and judging from the booming of cannon all the morning, he must now be engaged with the enemy. The firing has been incessant for some hours.

The next fight, unless this operation of Hancock's brings it on to-day, will take place at Hanover Court House.

The work from here on is likely to be terrific.

Only be prepared for the new base. You don't know how grateful a thing it was to me to see almost every needy in the hospitals of the 5th Corps supplied with our shirts. Give us large supplies from the new base. I shall need Freeman for my own use.

Mr. Marsh is now taking the names of the wounded at the battle of North Anna.

Our clothing left by the wagons in the 15th Corps Hospital is doing splendid duty now.

The *New York Times* correspondent says, writing from Port Royal, May 28:

The wounded began to arrive on Wednesday evening, and as good luck or good management would have it, two steamers, two barges, a schooner, and a tug boat, all heavily with the stores of the United States Sanitary Commission, got here in advance, and more than a hundred willing men and women were ready to administer to the comfort of the suffering, who were faint and exhausted by a long ride of twenty or thirty miles from the front, some in ambulances, but more in the springless army wagons. Every wounded man was kindly cared for, and the good work has been kept up night and day, until now it is announced that all those wounded up to yesterday have been sent here, and that probably no others will come to this point. The men have been mainly left in the vehicles, until sent on board the arriving boats, to be carried direct to Washington. The Sanitary Relief Corps have gone from wagon to wagon carrying coffee, beef tea, farina, milk punch, &c., and giving out crutches, and affording other relief as needed. I estimate the number of wounded arriving here at about 2,000. As I said of both Belle Plain and Fredericksburg, I say here, that the relief and comfort afforded to the sick and wounded at this point alone have abundantly repaid all the efforts ever made to put funds into the treasury of the Sanitary Commission. I doubt not that hundreds of lives have been saved. If any others arrive, there are now complete hospital boats ready to receive them; and at least part of the Sanitary Commission forces and supplies will soon move to another point, (where you will announce in due time, if not proper now.)

* * * * * *

All seem cheerful and confident of success; even the wounded express unbounded confidence. Every inch of ground gained by our troops *forward*, whether for strategical or other purposes on the part of the army, gives confidence to the men. The next field of operations for the Sanitary Commission will probably be well toward Richmond. The present volunteer force have worked unceasingly night and day for three weeks, and many of them will continue in the field as long as possible. The present expenditures of the Commission are on a vast scale, the managers deeming it their duty to spare no expense to give the most prompt and efficient relief to every wounded man over the vast field now covered by our extensive military operations. Everybody connected with the Commission is, I know, too busy to stop to render any account of their stewardship just now. The soldiers and the country will owe them a great deal of gratitude for

the earnestness and fidelity with which they are executing their heaven-born trust.

Below I send you a list of soldiers buried at Port Royal. They are all buried in one spot, and their graves are numbered in the order that I have numbered the names below.

1. S. V. Martin, Co. I, 87th Penn.—died May 25.
2. Morris Cauain, Battery M, 7th N. Y. Artillery—died May 28.
3. James Ferrell, Co. C, 104th N. Y.—died May 26.
4. Serg't G. Pritchard, Co. D, 143d Penn. Vols.—died May 25.
5. Henry C. Merness, Co. C, 12th Ky., 2d Bat. U. S. Infantry—died May 26.
6. Michael Drew, Co. C, 91st Penn. Vols., of Richmond, Penn.—died May 26.
7. B. Merithan, (1st Serg't) Co. I, 4th Me.—died May 26.
8. Henry W. Toye, Co. A, 16th Penn. Cav., Venango County, Penn.—died May 26.
9. John Hannum, Co. D, 1st N. Y. Artillery—died May 26.
10. Capt. Henry W. Davis, 1st N. Y., Battery E—died May 27.
11. Alexander De Forrest, 10th Mass.—died May 27.
12. Unknown, 9th Mass. Vols., (residence, Malden)—died May 27.
13. Thomas B. Story, Co. H, 102d Penn. Vols.—died May 27.
14. A. P. Matton, Co. C, 105th Penn. Vols.—died May 27.
15. Joseph Vaughn, Co. E, 61st Penn. Vols.—died May 27.
16. Unknown, anchor and shield on left arm in India ink—died May 27.
17. Unknown, 7th Loyal Virginia Vols.—died May 27.
18. James Grace, 63d N. Y.—died May 27.
19. C. Lewis Franklin, Co. F, 7th R. I. Vols.—died May 27.
20. Unknown—probably of Howlyton, Broome County, N. Y.—died May 27.
21. Unknown.
22. Unknown.
23. Unknown.

The above were on their way home, and died before or after arriving at Port Royal. They were buried by the Sanitary Commission Corps, with religious services at the graves. The graves are neatly rounded up, with head-boards having the above markings. A beautiful large bouquet of fresh flowers was planted upon the head of each grave, and the whole left in the charge of George Smith, a good old colored man residing near, who promised to do all he would be allowed to to keep the graves inviolate and in order. A more interesting spot, and a more affecting interment I never witnessed. There, at least, is "sacred soil."

The following list of the principal articles carried to Port Royal by the United States Sanitary Commission on Wednesday evening, May 26, will show what is being done with the "funds," and what the Field Relief Corps have to work with among the sick and wounded:

425 bed ticks.	45 tin dippers.
265 blankets.	115 mattresses.
596 coarse combs.	148 candlesticks.
120 fine combs.	494 knives and forks.
132 medicine cups.	112 wooden pails.
80 pieces mosquito net.	90 stretchers.
331 pillows.	50 canes.
556 pillow ticks.	1,830 crutches.
210 towels.	2 bales oakum.
2,320 tin cups.	62 urinals.
650 tin plates.	264 chambers.
250 tin basins.	250 bed-pans.
115 tin buckets.	72 spittoons.
541 tin spittoons.	61 spit cups.
1,000 feet lumber.	3,132 pounds chocolate.
50 barrels cabbage or curry.	80 pounds dried apples.
218 barrels saurkraut.	325 gallons pickles.
5,676 cans tomatoes.	28 boxes corn starch.
443 pounds butter.	8 barrels white sugar.
455 pounds cheese.	8 barrels brown sugar.
24 barrels potatoes.	6 chests tea.
10 cases smoking tobacco.	132 bottles vinegar.
2 boxes pipes.	720 bottles brandy.
702 pounds tamarinds.	600 bottles wine.
168 lanterns.	1,360 bottles whisky.
571 woolen drawers.	47½ barrels porter.
874 canton flannel drawers.	120 bottles alcohol.
67 pants.	108 bottles Jamaica rum.
1,762 handkerchiefs.	108 bottles bay rum.
3,781 woolen shirts.	102 bottles cologne.
290 canton shirts.	1,000 pills camph. et opii.
206 hospital shirts.	36 pounds chloroform.
84 blouses.	160 pounds candles.
492 shoes.	402 palm fans.
12 pairs low boots.	15 barrels bandages.
540 slippers.	13 barrels old linen.
2,470 woolen socks.	Splints.
313 wrappers of cotton.	15,500 envelopes.
4,032 cans condensed milk.	31¼ reams paper.
1,728 cans beef.	157 dozen pen holders.
336 cans meats.	14 gross pens.
72 cans mutton.	168 bottles ink,
528 cans poultry.	300 new newspapers.
60 pounds extra coffee.	

A dispatch to the Associated Press from Washington, May 31, says:

The Sanitary Commission's steamer John R. Thompson, left Baltimore last evening with sanitary stores, (her second load,) bound for Bermuda Hundred, where she has been stationed for the past fortnight.

The propeller Elizabeth, one of the Baltimore and Philadelphia line, has also been chartered by the Sanitary Commission, and was last night loaded with some forty tons of ice and eighty tons of assorted sanitary stores, and dispatched to the James River, The Thompson and Elizabeth each carried its corps of relief agents. Three other boats in the employ of the Sanitary Commission left the mouth of the Rappahannock at daylight yesterday morning, for the new base of the Army of the Potomac.

DIARY OF A RELIEF AGENT ON THE RAPPAHANNOCK.

BELLE PLAIN, VA., *May* 23, 1864.

It was impossible to get a clearance and away before 9 A. M. I spent the morning in writing orders and digesting plans. On arrival at Aquia Creek, found every indication of an early, if not immediate relinquishment of that point. Mr. Clampitt had gone to Fredericksburg to come down with a train of wounded, and I was unable to see him; but left Mr. Wood and Chaplain Conwell with "Mac," to take care of matters. Arriving at this place, was greatly perplexed by finding that the tug which towed down the Hoboken was a Government one, and had gone off on Government business. Further, that nothing would be left here at 10 A. M., Tuesday. The Washington, Hoboken, and Kennedy, with all our stores and employees, would, if I followed your instructions, be left without any certainty of removal; and though

I earnestly feel the necessity for pushing on, yet, in view of the probability that the Kent will be at Port Royal on Tuesday evening, and in view of the unexpected state of things here, I assumed the responsibility of providing for the barges and the agents who have worked so faithfully, fearful that assistance from Washington might arrive too late, as you did not know the change wrought in twelve hours.

Being unable to find Captain Pitkin, I consulted his assistant in reference to towing the barges to a safe place, where you could pick them up; but, first, he couldn't tell where a safe place was; second, Government had more than use for its tows; and, third, we might leave to-night. Afterwards finding Captain Pitkin, he asked me about our barges, and said he wanted one, but wouldn't take her off our hands, as his necessities were but for a few days. I requested him to accept the loan of the Washington as long as he wished it, and if he would put freight, not men, aboard, part of the Hoboken was at his disposal. "Good! that's the way to talk! I'll tow all your barges to Port Royal for you," was the reply. I then, feeling that it was the best, though we may not need all the barges at Port Royal, handed over the Washington and Hoboken. The Rapley had already towed the Hoboken out beyond the gunboats, and was making for the upper wharf after the Washington, when Captain Pitkin ordered a little tug to countermand my order, which the little tug vainly supposed it could do by shooting off its shrill little whistle in all imaginable and non-imaginable manners. In the mean time, Captain Harris arrived, and accepted an appointment as superintendent of land transportation. I placed him in full charge of the trains, empowering him to appoint such assistants, and establish such regulations, as he may deem expedient. It will be his duty to take supplies from the water base, and to forward them to such point, or points, as may be conveniently reached by the Auxiliary and Relief Corps. He reported that his train of twenty-eight, I think, wagons was ready to start with supplies for Fredericksburg; also, that three horses and two wagons were unable to stand the trip; that every thing at his camp was removed, except some water casks. I ran up with the Rapley to take the wagons and horses on board; but finding Captain Strickland, Quartermaster, in charge, for whom Captain Pitkin had procured the Washington from me, and learning that he was sending stock to Washington, requested him to take ours along, which he promptly agreed to do. The last load of tents from Harris Camp was brought aboard the Rapley by Mr. Whittelsey, in the small boat Quinta, and we pulled for the lower wharf. Every thing had been gotten aboard, except the tent loaned to General Abercrombie, and one to the telegraph operators. As Mr. Williams had spoken to the General, I did not think it advisable to bother him again. Leaving Whittelsey and Freeman in charge of the Kennedy, together with Mrs. Spencer's men and our own laborers, Mr. Williams took aboard his corps, and we ran up the Aquia. I had been informed by Captain Clark that nothing was safe there long, and was in the act of pulling down Clampitt's tents, when I heard you asking questions about it. Clampitt was put aboard your tug, Governor Curtin. After you left, we were detained some time by a piece of old pile which got jammed between the arms of the port wheel and the hull; and, as we lay within hailing distance, were yelled at by some body, to the effect that fifteen hundred wounded would come down by railroad, and would need feeding. Fearing that there might be as many thousands at Port Royal awaiting us, and having been told by the surgeon that they were not suffering in the slightest, as you remember, I replied that you would be back in an hour on the tug; that our "small issue" barge was at Belle Plain, and that you would get them every thing they could possibly need. So soon as the wheel was cleared, we steamed off for the head of Kettle Bottom Shoals, and tied to a schooner, it being impossible for us to pass the shoals at night. Several barges were there, and by 12 o'clock all hands were asleep. Mr. Williams and I spent the evening in discussing our work and digesting details. We have twenty-six Sanitary Commission people aboard, and twenty-one of a crew. It is hard to tell which party has been worked the hardest; and the "human form divine" may be seen sprawled, knotted, and almost dangling on and from decks, boxes, bales of straw, and guards. They need it, poor fellows, for they have worked gloriously. It wouldn't have been a remarkable surprise to have seen some body asleep on top of the smoke stack. For myself, I succeeded in gaining a skylight for a pillow. The cabin was surrendered to Mrs. Spencer. To-day, Tuesday, May 24, we got away at 4.30; at 1, had Point Lookout abeam; and now, 3 P. M., are heading for the Rappahannock. Fortunately the bay is comparatively smooth, though there are some pale faces, and we are making a good run.

I have appointed Mr. Williams, General Superintendent of the work of the Sanitary Commission, at the water base on the Rappahannock, and Mr. Thompson, Superintendent of Special Relief at the water base—designing in case Mr. Fay should be with us there, to place Mr. T. under his orders, and in case he should not, to have Mr. T. supervise, and be responsible for the feeding of the wounded. He is authorized to appoint such assistants

and secure such aid as may be found necessary; and will be kept near at hand to us, ready for emergencies. He has selected nineteen of the force abroad, eleven to aid with himself, and the rest to be with Mrs. Spencer, who is under his charge. My plan is to divide the work into appropriate departments—place a reliable man at the head of each, and while giving him every facility possible, yet hold him responsible for the work. Accordingly, Mr. T. is directed to be able to detail at any moment, a captain, who can break in new men, and run a new squad. He is also directed to report semi-weekly all the facts and incidents of his department. He estimates that he fed 22,000 at Belle Plain. I have requested him to write up a report of that work. I shall, so far as possible, secure full reports from the various agents, in order that you may know what we are about.

About 4.30 P.M., we rounded the guardship at the mouth of the Rappahannock, and were ordered to anchor and await a convoy. The Medical Purveyor's tug was close by, and a Sanitary Commission pennant was fluttering from the Kent, alongside of which we anchored. Mr. Clark came aboard to report—I showed him my instructions; he had arrived Tuesday 24th, at 11 A. M., and received similar orders from the gunboats. Boarding her I found her tonnage to be 260; her invoice admirably selected and full; Mr. Clark in charge, with Capt. Gofts, as Quartermaster; Mr. Beck and Mr. Swan, as assistants, together with a crew of seventeen men—charter, $225. The saurkraut schooner had received orders to make sail from Fort Monroe for Rappahannock. She had not arrived, nor had any of our barges, but, doubtless, would obey her instructions, and anchor till further orders. I shall probably dispatch the tug Curtin for her, after the Kennedy is landed at Port Royal.

WEDNESDAY, *May* 25, 1864.

Obeying orders from the gunboat, we were under weigh at 5 A. M., with quite a respectable fleet of transports and tows, the gunboat Dragon acting as convoy. The river is broad, water good, and banks fringed with green foliage, which also acts as a beautiful frame to the occasional white farm-houses. About 8, the gunboat stopped to wait for the rest of the fleet, and the Rapley and Kent followed in the wake of a large transport sea propeller. The City of Albany is far ahead of the transport. I have had certain persons selected as suitable men to place on transports returning with wounded; and also, a table of supplies, calculated for one hundred men for one day. Should emergencies arise, we can speedily determine from the number of patients and their destination, the amount and kind of stores to be put on board, and the agent to go with them. On arrival, unless affairs at Port Royal change the decision, I shall have the cargo of the Rapley discharged into the Kent, retain the Kent until the barge arrives, and send back the Rapley in charge of Mr. Clark. Will most probably place Mr. Beck in charge of the Kent, and Mr. Swan as his assistant. Purpose to retain the Kent until the barge arrives, and then dispatch her, unless there is a great demand. I can't keep feeling apprehensive, and yet I agreed with Harris that, so far as we could tell, the Fredericksburg route was the safest and speediest. That Harris is a noble man. At 11 A. M., passed Rappahannock village. Some negroes waving handkerchiefs; the gunboats will probably pick them up. 4 P. M.,—are just rounding into Port Royal; have passed one of the most elegant houses on the South shore. Some ladies and a couple of gentlemen sitting on the veranda, waved handkerchiefs to them, "which, they didn't see it," as Artemus Ward remarks. Plenty of contrabands have welcomed us at many points, but no white people. Several vessels are lying at Port Royal, gunboats among others. Have passed some elegant places for guerrillas, but fortunately without disturbance. State of Maine just gone with wounded, saluted us. On arrival, directed Mr. Clark to lower his boat and visit the steamers in port, to see what ones would grant us transports, and what ones would need supplies. At the same time I took the Juniata, which we had towed from Belle Plain, and nailing a crutch, with a Sanitary Commission flag to her, put out to Port Royal in search of our men. Getting no trace, I crossed over the river, and proceeding to Gen. Abercrombie's headquarters, informed him of our arrival and desire to facilitate matters.

Learned from him that a train of wounded would likely arrive during the evening. Re-crossed the river; and, by the way, it was pouring rain all the afternoon and night. I succeeded in finding Dr. Cuyler, on a search for houses suitable for hospitals. He greeted us most cordially. We arrived an hour before his barges, and about an hour after General Abercrombie—long before his train was in. Dr. Cuyler asked me what we wanted, and, of course, we preferred a house, whereupon he assigned one to us; but finding from his staff, (Captains Pitkin and Clark,) that there is no probability at present of our remaining longer than four or five days, I have not yet used it.

On returning to the wharf, I met Mr. Le Baron, who had left Fredericksburg Tuesday evening, bringing a note to you from Mr. Fay, requesting that the Rapley be sent up to bring our agents off. Coming aboard, I directed Mr. Thompson to tak

ashore his corps, and proper material for feeding six hundred wounded about to arrive. Pulling to Captain Hookiss's gunboat, on which Mr. Le Baron had come down, had quite a talk with Captain H., and learned that the Weems would probably go up to-night. Returned, relieved Mr. Clark, and directed him to turn over the Kent to Mr. Williams. Requested Mr. Williams to proceed with her in the wake of the Weems, and, under convoy, to Fredericksburg. Wrote to Captain Harris and Dr. Douglas. Sent the Kent instead of the Rapley, because, first, she is larger, and is not so crowded with stores; second, has more coal; and, third, runs fast.

Captain Harris had arrived at Fredericksburg Tuesday, 10 or 11 A. M., and I am greatly perplexed to know what he ought to do. I think he had better come here, unless he has pushed on to Millford. I went ashore in hopes of finding him, and tramped all around the country. Thompson had got an old house; and lanterns, buckets of coffee and crackers were constantly accompanying pairs of legs in and out.

On the hearth was a bright fire of wood and a brighter fire of womanhood, both of them boiling coffee and dispensing cheerfulness.

The wounded were in army wagons, and had come from a point a mile and a half beyond the North Anna River, a ride of thirty miles. They had had nothing to eat, by their report, for some time.

Mr. Bloor came with the train. They were thoroughly fed, our men being at work until 3 A. M.

THURSDAY, *May* 26.

Kent sailed for Fredericksburg, in charge of Mr. Williams, at 5 A. M. Six hundred more wounded had arrived.

We have given out two thousand six hundred meals. At 12, seventy-five ambulances are reported as expected. We are all worked terribly. I pray that some of them may come from Fredericksburg to-night.

Dr. Cuyler wishes to supply us with stove, cauldrons, bread, &c. I accepted. Got a guard to bury six men who had died *en route*. Commissary is not issuing. Have had to supply Captain Pitkin and several quartermasters with food, also gunboats. Your dispatch is received. Curtin not arrived; when she does, will send the schooner back. You had better have a steamer, with cargo, anchored at mouth of York River, to go up as soon as White House is garrisoned. Appearances may change, but at present nothing indicates a week's delay here.

By midnight we will have given four thousand six hundred meals.

Key Port and Lizzie Baker just arrived from Fredericksburg; but no transports here to take off their wounded.

In great haste, yours,

J. A. ANDERSON.

N. B.—Hurriedly written to catch the mail. COPYIST.

GENERAL BANKS'S ARMY.

Dr. Crane writes from New Orleans, April 29:

Since writing you on the 22d inst., little has occurred here of interest. I have received from the front four letters—two from Mitchell dated on the 21st inst., one from Mitchell and one from Stevens dated on the 26th. These four letters I now enclose to you.

Mr. Chadwick, agent for the Cincinnati Branch, returned from Alexandria to-day. He gives good accounts of the work done by our agents. I shall send up to-morrow by Mr. Edgerly a pretty large supply of vegetables, dried fruit, &c., for general distribution in camp.

Mitchell, Stevens, Barnard, Foote, Miller, Hildreth and Reynolds, are at Alexandria. Edgerly goes on the Laurel Hill. Grant and Kimball are in the storehouse. Furniss attends to securing transportation, &c., &c. Boltwood is now in the storehouse awaiting transportation to Pensacola. The condition of the refugees at that station—women and helpless children—who have come within our lines, demands immediate attention. Gen. Asboth has written to me about it, and I have directed Mr. Boltwood to proceed to Pensacola and investigate the matter.

I have written somewhat at length about the subject to Dr. Jenkins. It is an important one, and I hope the Commission will feel it to be their duty to act upon it directly.

The Tempest has arrived, and we have been receiving her cargo to-day. The invoice is a splendid one; it measurably fills the great gap created by the recent run upon our stores.

The net result of the recent benefit and subscription list in our behalf was $2,052.25.

I send you a copy of the *Era* of the 26th inst., which will give you the former statement.

The weather is now quite hot and summer is in, and the demands for ice are frequent. It can be obtained in this city for 1½ cents per lb., delivered in quantities to suit. Should a shipment be considered desirable there will be no difficulty in obtaining an ice-house.

The accounts from the Red River are sad enough. Mr. Mitchell, writing from Alexandria, April 21, says:

As Mr. Foote was unwell, I concluded to send Mr. Chadwick with a large supply of stores to the front to communicate and act with Messrs. Stevens and Barnard. Yesterday I sent up to the Rapids, on teams

for transportation to the army, a large quantity of potatoes, pickles, lemons, claret, condensed milk, beef stock, farina, bandages and other field supplies, which I knew would be needed in view of the abandonment and legitimate consumption of medical supplies during the two days' fight. In the evening, much to our annoyance, we received information that no stores would be sent forward until further orders. A boat loaded with commissary stores returned to the Falls still loaded, and it soon became quite evident that the intention of our commanders is to return at least as far as this point. The troops here were under arms until 4 A. M. to-day, and the Superior has just arrived here, having been fired into at Bayou Sara and 15 miles below this place, with artillery, killing two men of the 3d R. I. Cavalry and wounding sixteen.

The gunboats, numbering some twenty in all, with many of our large transports, will be unable to cross the Falls from above. The Navy I propose to look after, and to issue to it a large portion of our stores at the Rapids, which they may stand in need of, and which we cannot get to the army.

The potatoes by the Chateau are just unloaded to-day. I will issue them to-morrow to hospitals and troops. Have heard nothing from Stevens or Barnard. Foote is sick. Chadwick is under orders to communicate with Stevens with stores, but, as I have explained, is unable to. I will retain him to assist at the storehouse until Mr. Foote is able to take charge. "Philip," "Jim" and "Charlie," are all kept busy. I have had not an hour unoccupied in daylight as yet, and this fact must apologize for my hurried and disconnected communications.

On the 26th, he adds:

Thanks to the courtesy of Capt. Welch, Quartermaster at this point, I turned over to him for transportation to Mr. Stevens, at Grand Ecore, a large amount of all kinds of hospital stores, potatoes, lemons, milk, farina, corn starch, sugar, ice, tobacco, pipes, clothing, &c., &c. All these were sent above the Falls on Friday, 22d inst. Mr. Chadwick was to have gone up with them, and to have aided Mr. Stevens in the distribution; he was also to have communicated with Mr. Barnard, to whom I sent word to return, that he might assist at this point.

On the evening of the 22d Capt. Welch told me that he had orders to send no more boats up the river. This, we concluded, meant that the army was to return. On the morning of the 23d I sent Mr. Chadwick to the Falls to distribute such of our stores to the gunboats at that point as they might need. He was prevented from accomplishing this, as the stores were sent back to me before he arrived there. Mr. Chadwick, however, succeeded in rendering aid to the 550 sick on board the Ewing, by distributing stores brought back for want of transportation by Mr. Barnard. Mr. Barnard was already on board, hard at work and faithful to his mission.

On the 24th inst. we were all busy in looking after the sick on the Ewing, the wants of the hospitals, and the various calls made on us by the detachments of sick on board some seven transports, sent down from Gen. Smith's fleet. We also issued to every company of Gen. Grover's command half a barrel of potatoes, for which we were often thanked.

The convalescent men on board the seven transports were sent to the Rest, where Mr. Reynolds was kept continually busy in providing them meals. Mr. Reynolds has had probably as many as 200 boarders at the Rest.

On board the Ewing, Mr. Barnard and Mr. Chadwick have worked incessantly. The ——— had made no provision for feeding his men. Philip made some 20 gallons of corn starch, and this, with cherry wine, crackers and claret punch, has been served out at every meal to all the men on board.

This morning the surgeon went with me to the Commissary's, where I drew full rations of fresh beef, potatoes, rice, flour, &c., &c. With Mr. Chadwick's assistance we set up a hospital cook-stove, lying unused on board, and having selected convalescent men on board, set them to work to prepare a good soup for all on board.

Yesterday morning Gen. Banks and staff rode in. Soon the army was coming in, and Mr. Stevens reported.

The Red Chief soon after came down, with a number of wounded on board, and then again all hands went at work. We gave to every man on board iced punch or brandy and water and soft crackers, before they were removed to the hospital. Mr. Mudge, of the Christian Commission, did valuable service, in washing and dressing the sore and sick men on board the Ewing. He is a good practical worker, and recognizes the need of administering physical comforts before spiritual exhortations to men suffering from empty stomachs and dusty persons.

To-day the army is all back here, having had to fight its way through a force at Cáney River, while its rear was compelled to repulse continuous attacks. It was in a hazardous position, and we all thank God and Gen. Smith that it is here in comparative safety. It is said there was fighting near here this morning, and as I write I hear the booming of distant reports of artillery. There is also a small force of rebels opposite us at Pineyville; last night the gunboats here punished their audacity

by shelling them and killing a small number. What movement will next take place no one seems to know, although the general impression is that we will leave for New Orleans. We still have some supplies, but can use all you can send us.

Mr. Stevens was with the army during the retreat, and gives the following account of his operations during the march:

Your favor of 13th inst. was received upon my arrival at this place yesterday. During my stay at Grand Ecore I received from Mr. Mitchell two loads of supplies, and have been in direct communication with him since, as you suggest in your letter. My last to the office was dated the 15th inst. The next day I sent supplies per flag of truce to our wounded left behind at Mt. Pleasant, and made some other distribution to our forces around me, but being under marching orders, could not do much. On the 21st Gen. Smith took possession of Natchitoches, and next day at 5 P. M. we started on our retreat. On account of the burning of several houses the enemy must have been made aware of our movements, for they were soon pressing Gen. Smith in his rear. At the last crossing of Caney River, upon some high bluffs which commanded a wide range of country, we found seven or eight guns planted, thus menacing us in front and rear at the same time. Smith drove them back, while Gen. Berge, crossing the river and making quite a detour, took them by surprise, driving them away from their strong position. Our loss was about one hundred and fifty wounded. These were brought over and cared for, keeping us at work all night. I had a box packed with those things necessary and taken to the hospital, thus being ready before the wounded came in. The next morning, the enemy still pursuing, we hurried the men into ambulances and passed the river, stopping all night at Henderson's Hill, and arriving here yesterday about noon.

I found the Commission hard at work, and many are the words of praise I have heard from men and officers as well as surgeons. The men seemed to be astonished that the Commission could "come clear up here."

No one can tell how long we may remain here, or that "the object of the expedition is accomplished." The whole affair has been sad enough.

It would seem from the following from Mr. Mitchell that the Union still has some friends left even in Western Louisiana:

I have the gratification of acknowledging to you the receipt from William D. Primer, Esq., of Alexandria, La., of four gallons domestic wine, and through the Rev. Thomas Bacon, D. D., of the same place, the amount of the Easter contribution, viz., $14.20.

This, for a place not six weeks in our possession, encourages the hope that Unionism, genuine and devoted, still breathes at the South, smothered though it may be for a time by the strong hand of military despotism. The numerous enlistments in the "Louisiana Scouts," commonly called "bushwackers," indicates clearly that there are many men, who, having opposed this despotism as far as they were able unaided, are ready to fight for the Union, now that they have a support on which they can rally with confidence.

OUR OPERATIONS AT BELLE PLAIN.

The following reports contain a number of interesting details of our operations during General Grant's "Eight Days":

UNITED STATES SANITARY COMMISSION,
WASHINGTON, D. C., *May* 23, 1864.

DR. F. JENKINS,
General Secretary, &c., &c.:

DEAR SIR—I sent you a telegram this morning giving you a general summary. Yesterday we ran up to Aquia Creek and pitched our tents, for a relief station, near the old spot where a year ago we had our station for feeding the wounded. We left supplies there with five relief agents. The train went up to Falmouth at 4½ P. M., and it was thought that the cars might bring back the wounded.

Returning to Belle Plain, we found that in our absence of four hours, information had been received which indicated a speedy removal of medical quartermaster and commissary stores from Belle Plain to Port Royal, on the Rappahannock. We made our arrangements accordingly, leaving stores enough only at the upper wharf to load the trains of thirty wagons which will be there to-day for their last trip to be made to Fredericksburg.

The balance of stores upon the shore, together with the tents and material used at the feeding station, &c., &c,, are loaded on the barges to-day—provision still being made at the former relief station to feed any wounded who, by chance, may yet come in that way. Judging it important to make arrangements for another boat beside the Rapley, I came up last evening with Mr. Anderson, and have to-day found, by telegram, that the Kent is at Norfolk, well stored, still, after having supplied our boat on James River, the Thompson, which came down for stores a day or two since. I have ordered the Kent, with the schooner in tow, loaded with anti-scorbutic supplies, to go at once to Port Royal. After we arrived last night, at 1 A. M., the Rapley was coaled and loaded, and at daylight this

morning she started for the base. This afternoon I go down on a tugboat, Gov. Curtin, which I have chartered for as long a term as we need her. After supplying the demands at Aquia Creek for Fredericksburg, the tug will take one of the barges, the Kennedy, with her stores, to Port Royal. The Kennedy is the barge which has been at the wharf at Belle Plain, near the Medical Purveyor's boat, and which has been headquarters for the agents of the Commission while there, and also a distributing station. I should have sent this barge off early this morning, except for the fact that we had promised to receive from soldiers stationed in the vicinity, passing through Belle Plain, such valises and little packages as they found themselves unable to carry, or which they wished to deposit in a safe spot before going into battle—and so we wanted to let this storehouse remain till the last moment. I may just mention here, that during the past two days the aggregate of these packages and bundles which we have thus taken charge of, and which, in most cases, would have been simply abandoned—the men unable to march carrying the load—amounted to not less than twenty tons. Straight through the day and night there was one unbroken stream of men bringing what they wished to preserve. But to-night the barge, which had been such a comfortable home at Belle Plain, and which, beside our own agents, has "slept and fed" at least two hundred other State and local relief agents and those seeking wounded friends—to-night the barge goes for its new wharf at Port Royal. The relief agents who have fed the wounded as they arrived from Fredericksburg, will go on with the barge, and be ready to continue their work on the other river bank. It cannot be a more lovely spot than that where our tents and little frame house clustered under the great tulip tree all full of flowers, and covered with that enormous growth of vine. Mr. Anderson will take charge for the present at Port Royal of the work of receiving and forwarding our supplies, and establishing the stations for feeding the wounded as they come in by ambulance. Mr. Anderson's energy and wise judgment, united to a generous humanity and religious purpose, make him just the kind of man we want for that work.

The agents of the little feeding station at White Oak Church will fall back into Fredericksburg. You have no idea of the amount of comfort and relief which have been given at the rough-looking station during the past three days. Being half way between Fredericksburg and Belle Plain, all the slightly wounded who are sent on to walk down, getting, of course, much exhausted, have found here, in food and drink and a place to rest for a half hour, just the help which gave them strength to go on.

Captain Harris will take charge of the transportation wagons and get them over to Port Royal, except those needed for a while between Falmouth depot and Fredericksburg hospitals.

If we can get the Elizabeth, with her large capacity for storage, I propose to load her and let her take the place of the Kent, which, though large, is not conveniently arranged for carrying supplies.

The barge Hoboken will be left at Aquia Creek until we learn what the needs are there.

Truly yours, &c., &c.,

FRED. N. KNAPP,

Associate Secretary.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *May* 14, 1864.

TO F. N. KNAPP, ESQ.,

Associate Secretary, &c.:

SIR—A brief report of some of the past week's work may serve as a record of what should not be forgotten.

Under your direction, I went to the Army of the Potomac on Saturday, April 30; visited the station at Brandy and the headquarters of the army, for such suggestions from the Provost Marshal General as might guide your work on the eve of battle.

These were fully communicated to the Board in session here, on my return, May 3. Every thing was in readiness to proceed at once to the scene upon the first news of battle.

On Sunday, at noon, having the only pass then issued, I proceeded on your order to Alexandria, with hospital supplies for Rappahannock Station. These were at once taken on board a train for the front, in charge of a band of fifteen nurses and attendants, under the orders of Surgeon Mitchell, in charge of the Cavalry Corps Hospital, who received me into his company.

Milk punch in bottles, crackers, soft bread, and coffee were prepared, in the hope of being able to supply them to the in-coming wounded and sick upon the train from the rear of the army.

We waited in the cars, hour after hour, for the signal to go forward, and I kept you constantly advised of the state of affairs.

Meanwhile the Lodge at Alexandria was thronged, and all things in active and abundant preparation for the tide of suffering expected.

As soon as it was ascertained on Monday that no wounded were to come in by rail, that Belle Plain would probably be the new base, I so advised you by telegram; and as I was ordered to Washington on Tuesday morning, your steamer and a barge, both well laden, and bearing your own wagons and horses for independent transportation, were ready at an early hour to go forward,

and moved off as soon as the necessary passes could be obtained for the large band of helpers who had been held here in readiness.

We reached Belle Plain at twilight; were soon moored at the temporary wharf, and every appliance was in instant requisition. The separate bands of young men, under their several captains, were assigned to various tasks.

A large hospital tent was pitched under a venerable tree on shore, and the fires soon blazed under the camp kettles, filled with coffee. The large supply of lanterns were a Godsend to the officers engaged in exploring the crowds of wounded who had been all day streaming in, and during the entire night in guiding them on board the barges, serving as lighters to convey them to the transports in deep water in the offing. This service of the young men, under the order of Mr. Fay—in forming a line of lanterns, assisting the crippled soldiers to the boats, feeding them, and going with them on the barges and aiding in removal to the transports—was cordially accepted by the officers in charge; and, as the hospital tents of the medical officers were directly opposite the tent under the tree, much and very welcome assistance and solace was furnished to it, both to surgeons and sufferers.

During the night a train of ambulances was gotten into line, loaded with stimulants, and having on board a band of surgeons specially deputed from several States. The intense darkness, and the badness of the roads, as well as their unguarded condition, detained this train until dawn, and our young men supplied the surgeons with lanterns, bread and coffee.

Nearly all of us were at work during the entire night, and all rejoiced in the abundant opportunity afforded of hard and tiring service.

With the break of dawn, the horses and wagons were brought on shore from the barge, and the work of loading them with assorted stores for Fredericksburg pressed forward, under the care of Dr. Steiner and Mr. Fay.

About noon Mr. Fay left, with this train and a portion of our sixty helpers, for Fredericksburg, taking with them seven surgeons, and Mrs. Husband and Miss Gilson, who had come down with us upon the steamer to take up again their invaluable work in the new scenes of suffering at Fredericksburg.

The entire freight of your steamer, the Mary Rapley, was transferred to the barge, and the steamer dispatched for another cargo and barge load to Washington.

Meanwhile other tents had been pitched on shore, and one wagon assigned to carrying supplies to the workers in and around them; and during the entire day, (Wednesday,) the crowds of wounded, either on or in the baggage wagons now thronging in for army stores, left no intermission of labor, and menaced exhaustion both to supplies and workers.

Bands of volunteers from various localities cheerfully took work in harmony with your organizations, and, lifting at the stretcher, supporting the crippled soldiers to the boat, aiding to dispose his shattered form upon the deck, carrying bread and crackers and coffee, bathing his wounds or readjusting his bandages, served to redouble the efficiency of all your means of succor; while, on the one hand, the officers of Government both accepted cordially your services and added in many things to your material, especially in supply of bread, soft as well as hard. The members of the Christian Commission harmoniously cooperated in all your work.

From Wednesday morning to Friday morning, when helpless exhaustion compelled me to go on board the Connecticut and return to the city, seems now one unbroken interval, in which rest was scarce thought of, and the varied activities which I have described went on continuously—chief officers of the Commission arriving to work, and counsel, and direct—new cargoes unloading, new bands of workers coming in; and the barge, over which floated the flag of the Commission, moored in the very focus of activity, forming the rendezvous for information, consultation, and supply.

I cannot close this hasty record without making mention, with admiration and gratitude, of the urbane and cordial temper in which (amid the distractions of the scene,) the Medical Director in charge, (Colonel Cuyler,) and the medical officers under him, welcomed and seconded your service and promoted its efficiency.

Of the energy and decision, tempered with humane consideration, of Col. Cuyler, and of his unflagging labor by night and day, all will bear witness. It was every thing to us and to the wounded soldiers—unraveling intricacies and shedding sunshine over the scene. The action of the entire medical staff was in harmony with this example.

The laborious and responsible duties of quartermaster were in the hands of Capt. H. B. Lacy, temporarily detailed from G Street Wharf, Washington, for the difficult occasion; and there are few men in his department with the heart and energy and administrative skill which enabled Captain Lacy to crowd the work of a month into a week.

Yours,

J. V. Van Ingen.

We have the following, also, from Mr. Abbott, in Washington, dated May 15:

Since my report of yesterday, three boats of wounded have arrived, viz.:

	Number.
Lizzie Baker	280
Connecticut	600
Utica	400
Total	1,280

Three-fourths of the whole number were severely wounded, and at least one-sixth part were cases of amputation.

The men were in excellent spirits, for men so severely wounded. We supplied them abundantly with every thing they needed, until they could be comfortably placed in hospital, for which they were exceedingly thankful. We fed this morning a detachment of one hundered men from the 1st Regiment of Veteran Reserve Corps, who have been sent down to Belle Plain to guard prisoners. They were unexpectedly ordered away, and did not have time to prepare themselves any food. To-night I will try and furnish you a report of the work accomplished for the week.

A PRISONER'S TESTIMONY.

NEW YORK, *May* 2, 1864.

I was taken prisoner at the battle of Gettysburg, and spent over eight months in Libby Prison, Richmond.

During my stay there I had the best practical knowledge of the beneficial working of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

To their kind offices, I and hundreds of others are indebted for almost every particle of decent food and all the delicacies that we enjoyed. To them we are indebted for all the clothing and blankets which we received while in the prison, as also our books, papers, and other reading matter.

STEPHEN KOVÁCS,
Major 54th Regt., N.Y.V., Paroled Prisoner.

LETTER FROM DR. H. S. HEWITT.

HEADQUARTERS DEP'T OF THE OHIO,
MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE,
MORRISTOWN, TENN., *March* 17, 1864.

SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, at this point, of 80 barrels of potatoes and 33 barrels of kraut, for gratuitous distribution to the forces of this Department now in the field.

This supply is timely and valuable, in a very high degree, and will be cordially appreciated by our soldiers.

With very great respect,
H. S. HEWITT, *Surg. U. S. V.,*
Med. Director.

M. M. SEYMOUR, *Agent U. S. San. Com.*

Disbursements in cash of the Commission during the month of May, $262,898.77. This does not include supplies received in kind.

THE WESTERN DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Read's reports to Dr. Newberry, from Chattanooga, gives the history of our operations with Sherman's army, down to May 18. Writing May 10th, he says:

Drs. Read, Seymour and Warren; Messrs. Hoblit, Bartell, Brundsitt, Fairchild, Tone, Hosford, Prindle, Murray, Crary, Place and Barrett, are at the front.

We have sent large supplies to Ringgold, and are now sending a car load a day to Tunnel Hill. Our line of communication with the front is complete, and we can have there all the teams we need or ask for. All we shall need now to have the work thoroughly done is a constant supply of stores. We have to guess how many of any kind we shall need. There was heavy skirmishing all day yesterday, and this morning orders have been sent to prepare for four thousand wounded in Chattanooga. Probably, a severe battle to-day. We telegraph as plainly as we are permitted to do. All our shirts, drawers and sheets, with the greater part of the rags and bandages have already gone to the front, beside the most of the concentrated milk, beef, tea, sugar, stimulants, &c.

We want all the milk and stimulants asked for, and a proportionate supply of clothing of all kinds for wounded men, large supply of dressings, a hundred barrels of crackers, two tons of butter—I deem this very important; five hundred pounds of green tea, a general supply of all farinaceous delicacies, a supply of flavoring extracts for the use of the ladies of the light diet kitchens, three or four thousand palm leaf fans; and, as there is, and can be no ice, a supply of tamarinds, and other articles for cooling drinks, with lemons and loaf sugar. Calculate on eight to ten thousand wounded, but I hope we shall not have so many. Every thing is yet uncertain, but we can scarely fail of severe fighting.

Hospitals are established at Ringgold and Tunnel Hill, but we know nothing as to the numbers admitted.

Add bed-sacks to the above partial list, and consider it only a partial list, as we shall, probably, need every thing required to make wounded men comfortable.

And May 18th, after the battle of Resaca, we hear from him:

There is a lull in the battle. Our troops are marching on below the Resaca. They have taken two of the strongest places for defense in the world—Buzzard's Roost and Resaca. Our loss in wounded will be about 3,000. They were in all cases promptly attended to, their wounds dressed, and they themselves fed as soon as brought from the field; and in all corps, sanitary stores were ready for them, and in all but one in sufficient quantities. This one would have been supplied, had teams I obtained and sent with much labor, been loaded. This was a misfortune, but, as much the fault of the teamsters as of our agents. This corps had the fewest wounded, and so had less need of the stores.

* * * * *

The list of casualties has been perfected as far as possible on the field, and we have had a representative in every Division hospital.

The railroad bridge at Resaca is destroyed—will be re-built soon. Our policy is, to keep our goods, sufficient for the field, at the terminus of the road, and from that point we were to have transportation through the general supply train of the Medical Department. So far, I have obtained it much sooner than I could otherwise, by being on the field at the commencement of the battle. While the tents were being put up, I could obtain a Division team to go at once for sanitary stores, and they returned with them nearly as soon as the wounded of that day were brought in.

Dr. Thompson and his associates, were here just at the right time to see our work to advantage.

I say to all the agents of the Christian Commission, "You can have goods at any time, subject only to the rules required of our agents." And, although this gives them nothing more than they have always had, it puts it in such a form that they cannot object to us.

There were no goods on the field except ours, unless the Western Commission had some for McPherson's corps.

I return again at once to the front, and if my health permits—and I am better—shall remain there until the close of the campaign. * *

I commenced, feeling that the difficulties in obtaining transportation were so great that they could hardly be overcome. I found the Medical Director unusually kind, and more disposed than ever to aid us, and by hard work have succeeded much better than ever, in which you will rejoice with me.

Dr. Perin, the Medical Director of the Department of the Cumberland, has been relieved by request, but before leaving he sent the following testimonial to our agents:

MESSRS. A. N. READ AND M. C. READ,
Agents U. S. Sanitary Commission:

GENTLEMEN—In leaving the Department of the Cumberland, I feel it but due to you that I place upon record my approbation of your conduct of the affairs of the Sanitary Commission during the period that I have served as Medical Director.

I will simply say that this judgment is based upon personal observation of the ability, zeal and energy that have characterized your labors.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
G. PERIN,
Surgeon U. S. A.

The following is a list of our shipments down the river from Cairo to Vicksburg, Memphis and New Orleans, from May 7 to May 16:

28 boxes (100 lbs. each,) codfish,
850 barrels potatoes,
165 barrels and 35 kegs pickles,
125 barrels crackers,
19 kegs butter,
5 barrels cornmeal,
7 boxes milk,
3 barrels eggs,
3 boxes pearl barley,
4 barrels cracked wheat.

Another large shipment to Vicksburg was to have been made on the 17th instant.

A CRY FOR HELP.

The Michigan Soldiers' Aid Society says: Will not each farmer's household pledge at least one barrel of potatoes or onions for the soldiers? If barrels are not conveniently obtained, send them in sacks; we will return them, if desired, and barrel the vegetables. These articles are pressingly wanted, but not these alone. We quote from the appeal of the Soldiers' Aid Society at Cleveland: "It is a significant fact that rags, cotton and linen pieces, and bandages, are just now demanded in large quantities. Will not all housekeepers, and others, lay aside for us the old cotton and linen that in the spring house-cleaning and re-arranging are sure to come to light? Pieces of any size will answer, only let them be *clean* and *smooth*, and rolled into bundles."

"NEWBERN WAIFS."

THE VEGETABLE GARDENS.—Newbern and its surroundings is one complete vegetable garden. There are some fine gardens in town—that of Dr. Page, of the Sanitary Commission, is ahead of all competition. He has peas in full blossom and radishes, lettuce and asparagus ready for the table. His garden at the "Old Fifth" Camp is splendidly arranged, and will be very productive. He has arranged a "stealing patch"—a novel idea—where it is expected all soldiers will do their "lifting"—those who feel maliciously inclined can help themselves to green corn, watermelons, &c., and be entirely welcome. The soldiers will bless the doctor for giving them this opportunity to "help themselves," and "no questions asked."—*North Carolina Times, April* 27.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, *May* 8, 1864.

REV. F. KNAPP,
Sanitary Commission:

DEAR SIR—Inclosed please find $20—being a part of the sum of $100—which was sent to me by Mr. Goddard, our Consul General at Constantinople, at the instance of Mr. Emmanuel, who holds a subordinate post in the corps of officers attached to the office of the Consul General, which Mr. Emmanuel desires to have expended for the benefit of our sick soldiers.

It is proper that I should say that this sum of $100 thus contributed by this foreigner, who, at his distant post, has seen nothing of the sufferings of our gallant boys, which are so familiar to you, is one-sixth of his annual compensation. Who, of our own countrymen, holding office under the Government, have done more?

Yours, always truly, G. J. ABBOTT.

If I can be of service during this coming week, when our wounded boys arrive, please send me word at the State Department.

SOLDIER'S GIFTS.

The following letters explain themselves:

CHARLES R. FOSDICK,
Corr. Sec. San. Com., Cincinnati:

DEAR SIR—Inclosed please find draft on Wayne County Bank for one hundred dollars, being a donation from Lieut. Wm. Henderson, 9th Ohio Cavalry, to the U. S. Sanitary Commission. This Mr. Henderson enlisted as a private, and received the inclosed amount as his local township bounty, and he requests me to forward it as above, as he says he has seen so many evidences of the usefulness and good resulting from the efforts of the Commission, that he desires to aid in its good work. Will you please make me a written acknowledgment of the receipt of it, and oblige,

Respectfully,
D. ROBINSON, Jr.

WOOSTER O., *May* 10.

NO. 1307 CHESTNUT STREET,
PHILADELPHIA, *May* 14, 1864.

To the Editor of the Sanitary Commission Bulletin:

DEAR SIR—Will you be kind enough to acknowledge, through the columns of your journal, the donation to the funds of the Commission of the sum of one hundred and fifty-one dollars, the amount of bounty and back pay due the estate of Samuel F. Bolton, deceased, late a sergeant in Co. H., 23d Regt., Penn. Vols., who died in action May 31, 1862. The claim was collected by this agency, for Joseph R. Bolton, Esq., of this city, the father of deceased, who generously gave it to the cause of our suffering soldiers. Such a gift certainly deserves of the Commission honorable mention.

Very respectfully yours,
W. N. ASHMAN,
Solicitor of War Claim Agency.

BACK PAY.

The following correspondence explains itself:

ALEXANDRIA, VA., *April* 15, 1864,
Prince Street Branch Hospital.

Your kind letter of the 11th instant I have received, and I beg you accept my best thanks for your favor. Concerning my pay I have to state, that I have not my descriptive list, (that is to say, it is not at the office,) and that I do not expect the same, as in all probability I shall be well enough to join my regiment in about two or three weeks. Should I be mustered on the hospital pay-roll, it is very likely that I am gone before the paymaster comes round to pay off the hospitals, which he generally does between the 10th and 15th of the month—not being then here, and not being mustered on the regimental pay-roll, I cannot draw my pay then, and, so you will perceive, how it comes that men have due to them their pay sometimes for six months. Now, if I am not asking too much of your kindness, please see the Paymaster, Major Webb, and ascertain if I can come to Washington and draw my pay and bounty. At the same time, I would ask you to procure for me the necessary permission to visit Washington.

Before concluding my letter, let me express to you the high admiration I entertain of this noble institution of yours. I have seen many armies of the European Continent, have served myself in the Polish and French Armies in Algiers, and I wish to God there would be only a shade of a like society, caring for the poor soldier like a mother only would do for her children, shielding soldiers from imposture and helping them along in almost any conceivable way.

Great as the American nation is, it brings forth only great things. Great, beyond comparison, is this unholy war; great, without parallel, the sacrifice and sufferings of the people, and great the noble institution of the Sanitary Commission, which I pray to God may prosper and accomplish their great and inestimable designs.

Accept the assurance of my highest esteem and respect, in which I remain

Your obedient servant,
JOHN WERNER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *April* 16, 1864.

MR. JOHN WERNER,
Co. C., 5th N. J. Vols.,
Prince Street Hospital, Alexa., Va.:

SIR—Your letter in regard to your back pay is received. I have been to Major Webb, and he says that you are mustered all right for your pay and bounty, and that if you will come to his office he will pay you.

I have no doubt but that your surgeon will give you a pass to come for it on showing him this letter.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. B. ABBOTT.

A COMPLETE EXAMPLE OF SANITARY SCIENCE PRACTICALLY APPLIED IN CAMPS AND HOSPITALS.

"That the prevention of disease is possible, but its suppression difficult and uncertain,"* was the very first postulate laid down by the U. S. Sanitary Commission at the commencement of its labors. Acting upon this principle by most practical methods, and with an unflinching determination not to be thwarted in the purpose to insure for the soldiers in camp and in hospital all the means of sanitary protection which the combined intelligence and liberality of the Government and the people could apply, the results are such as will forever be remembered with gratitude by our people and by the philanthropic minds of every country.

The *first complete example* of practical application of *sanitary science* in camps and hospitals, during a long war, is now being wrought out in our Federal army. But Great Britain, in the recent campaign of its army in China, has furnished a very instructive illustration of the life-

* General Instructions for Camp Inspectors; Sanitary Commission, Document 51.

A writer in the *North American Review* states that, "In the Mexican war our volunteer forces lost, from disease alone, at the rate of 152 per 1,000 per annum, and the regulars at the rate of 81, from the same cause. In Wellington's entire campaign in the Peninsula, his losses from disease were 113 per 1,000 strength. In time of peace, our regular army lost annually at the rate of 26 per 1,000 strength; and the British infantry, serving at home, annually lost about 18 per 1,000 from disease, until Lord Herbert's great reforms were instituted; but by those reforms, which mainly consist in supplying fresh air and an improved diet, the annual loss is reduced to about 8½ per 1,000 strength; and the entire loss in the British army during the past four years, from *all* disease, is less than the annual loss previously from disease of the *lungs only.*" (See *North American Review*, April, 1864.)

saving power of the improved sanitary system that has been established in the British forces since the Crimean campaign, and we cannot more forcibly illustrate the practical value of that improved system than by quoting statements from Miss Nightingale's tribute to Sir Sidney Herbert's administration and the reform that he officially ordered. She presents the statistical evidence that even during the *first three years'* experience of that reform, viz., 1859, 1860 and 1861, the mortality among the "infantry of the line serving at home" was diminished from 17.90 deaths to 1,000 living, to 8.56 to the 1,000, which is less than half the standard death rate previous to the reform.* Truly does Miss Nightingale remark, that the "faithful records of all wars are records of preventable suffering, disease and death. It is needless to illustrate this truth, for we all know it. But it is only from our latest sorrow, the Crimean catastrophe, that dates the rise of any sanitary administration in this country." [Great Britain.]

The latest returns of sickness and mortality in the British forces, at those permanent stations abroad where the losses have always been quite uniform, present to us the most remarkable results, confirming all that Lord Herbert, Miss Nightingale, and the advocates of sanitary reform ever claimed, and proving that the work and purpose of the Sanitary Commission of our army are based upon soundest reasoning and the most philanthropic designs. We quote the following illustration of the latest results of life-saving in the British army by means of simple sanitary improvements in camps, barracks, hospitals, and the care of troops:

"The last official returns of sickness and mortality among the British forces present the best argument upon this subject. In Jamaica, the death rate from disease has fallen, since the recent reform was carried into effect, from 260 per 1,000 to 20; in Trinidad, from 106 to 0 (in 1860 ; in Barbadoes, from 58 to 6; in St. Lucia, from 122 to 1; in British Guiana, from 74 to 6; in Canada, from 16 to 10; in Nova Scotia, from 15 to 7; in Newfoundland, from 11 to 4; in Bermuda, from 28 to 8; in Gibraltar, from 11 to 7; in Malta, from 15 to 10; in Ionia, from 15 to 7."†

Here we see the mortality reduced, at ten military stations, from 70 5 to the 1,000 living, to 6.9. Let us now look at a summary of the results of the British Sanitary Commission's work in the Crimea during the years 1855-6.

For the following brief synopsis of the results of the operations of the British Sanitary Commission in the Crimea, we are indebted to a member of the United States Sanitary Commission.

The following tables exhibit the total and comparative statistics of sickness and mortality in the British army in the Crimean campaign, and the rate per cent. of the diseases and deaths of all the forces, for first, a period of six months just previous to, and at the commencement of the works of the Sanitary Commission, viz.: from January to June, 1855; and, second, a period of six months, from January to June, 1856, after those works for sanitary improvement had produced their legitimate results. [All sickness and deaths in the Medical Staff, among Commissioned Officers, the Land Transport, and the Mounted Corps, *as well as all martial wounds or deaths in battle*, are excluded from these tables; also nearly 5,000 cases of sickness that failed to be properly registered during the early period of the campaign.]

Return showing total sickness and mortality from Disease in British Army in the East, from April 10th, 1854, to July 1st, 1856.

NUMBER OF CASES OF SICKNESS.		DEATHS.
From Fevers	31,230	3,452
" Diseases of Lungs	12,382	644
" " Bowels	55,765	5,950
" Cholera	7,574	4,502
" Scurvy	2,096	178
" Ophthalmia	3,301	
" Ulcers and Boils	12,542	37
" all other diseases	37,553	3,295
Total number cases	162,473	18,058

The rate per cent. of the entire army—sick and dying from disease—during two periods of six months each, as above stated.

	1855.		1856.	
	Rate p'r cent. sick.	Rate per ct. of deaths.	Rate p'r cent. sick.	Rate per ct. of deaths.
January	34.8	9.78	9.3	—.18
February	23.0	8.16	7.7	—.08
March	19.3	4.68	8.1	—.09
April	14.3	1.86	7.–	—.07
May	16.2	1.69	6.–	—.06
June	28.3	2.65	3.6	—.02
Total	135.9	28.82	41.7	—.5 *

Thus the fact is demonstrated, by the most unerring statistics, that during the period beginning eight months after the commencement of reforms by the Sanitary Commission in the Crimea, the sickness in the army was reduced to *less* than *one-third* of that which prevailed until those reforms were inaugurated. the exact ratio of that decrease being as 1,359 to 417, or 139-453! While the mortality—which is the more significant test of the utility of sanitary improvements—presents the marvelous contrast of 28.82 to —.5, or 5,364 to 100!! *i. e.*, the rate of mortality from *disease* in the army, after the work of sanitary reform had been fully inaugurated, was *less than one fifty-seventh* of the rate of mortality that prevailed during the same length of time preceding the reform.

It is worthy the remark, that, while the statistics show that considerable sickness continued to prevail during the latter or improved period, the records of the army hospitals exhibit the fact that the particular diseases that were *most remarkably diminished* were those which sanitary measures are known to prevent or greatly diminish, viz., the zymotic diseases, such as fevers, and those

* See *North American Review*, April, 1864. † Ib.

* This (—.5) shows that the mortality during those last six months was only half of *one per cent.*, or at the rate of exactly *one per cent. per annum*, which would give ten deaths to every 1,000 men in service.

maladies that are so largely represented in the list given in the foregoing table.

That this wonderful improvement in health, which was the salvation of the British forces in the Crimea, was directly and positively dependent upon *sanitary works and preventive hygienic measures*, is a fact confessed alike by the military and medical officers of those forces.

And in further corroboration of that fact, it should be stated that while the British troops were thus being rescued from the fatal disease that had threatened to make their encampment a Golgotha, the French camps, though located more favorably, and within a rifle's range of the British, continued to grow more and more sickly during all the time of the grand improvement in the camps of their allies. In the latter, the best sanitary board, while in the former (the French camps) such regulations were utterly neglected, "until," as a distinguished historian of the war has said, "with the French army, *peace become a military necessity.*"

The Crimean Sanitary Commission consisted of three gentlemen, viz., Dr. Sutherland, Dr. Milroy, and Mr. Rawlenson, a civil engineer. *Each of these commissioners had, for several years, made sanitary science and its applications a special study.* They proceeded to the Crimea in April, 1855, taking with them upwards of thirty skilled assistants and laborers, together with such implements and apparatus as they knew would be required in the ventilation and sewerage of hospitals and barracks, the cleansing and drainage of encampments, and the purification and disinfection of transports and ships. Among these means were pipe tubing, drainage pipes, filters, ten thousand square feet of perforated zinc plates for ventilation, hinges, pulleys, window fixtures, a ship load of peat charcoal, &c., &c. Immediately upon arrival on the Bosphorus and in the Crimea, the sanitary works were commenced; first, by thorough cleansing, both within and without, the hospitals, barracks, and tents, and in these works nearly one hundred men were employed for many months; old sewers were cleaned and flushed; new drains were made; surface filth, refuse, and decaying materials by *thousands of cartloads*, were removed, and such sources of offense as could not be *removed* were deeply covered with dry earth and peat charcoal. Water courses, springs, and the water supply were cleansed and controlled; the tents and camping grounds were rigidly inspected and purified, and an abundant supply of fresh air and pure water was every where secured in hospital and in camp, and, so far as practicable, the diet and general comfort of the soldiers were improved.

The results of this simple and inexpensive labor astonished the world, though sanitary science has always promised, and its advocates prophesied just such results.

Says Miss Nightingale: "It is the whole experiment of sanitary improvement upon a colossal scale. * * * * * * We had, in the first seven months of the Crimean campaign, a mortality of sixty per cent. per annum among the troops *from disease alone;* * * * we had in the last six months a mortality not much greater than among our healthy Guards at home."—*From Narrative Sanitary Commission, Appendix E.*

THE HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

Of the magnitude of this work some idea may be formed from the following "Summary of the Superintendent's Report," which was presented at the late meeting of the Commission in Washington:

Number of hospitals now reporting.....	88
Number of regiments reported.....	968
Number of names on record.....	360,060
Whole number of inquiries.....	10,984
Whole number of successful returns....	7,523
Number of personal inquiries answered.	6,111
Number of inquiries by letter.....	2,231
Number of inquiries by letter answered.	1,412
Number of letters written regarding inquiries.....	5,081

These regiments are distributed among twenty-five States, beside twenty-nine from the Regular Army. There are, also, about three hundred and fifty names from Colorado, twenty-five hundred from the Navy, and thirty-five hundred of the rebels upon the books of the Directory.

It would be impossible to estimate the amount of comfort which the establishment of this source of information has given to the friends of the soldier left at home, uncertain of his fate.

THE SITUATION IN THE WEST.

Our readers will, perhaps, not be displeased to have us give them a brief summary of the recent progress and present condition of our work in all parts of the field. In no other way can they get a clear idea of the state of the great enterprise in which, probably, the most of them are taking an active part. We therefore present for their consideration an outline sketch of the present attitude of our sanitary affairs; referring all those who have sufficient interest in the subject to lead them to pursue it further, to the detailed reports of geographical districts or departments of our work, which will be published hereafter.

Let us premise by saying, that for several weeks and months, an unusual degree of quiet has prevailed throughout nearly all the military departments, the whole energies of the Government being devoted to preparation for the great struggle known to all to be impending. This state of things has produced a certain degree of monotony in our work, which, for the most part, has consisted in the supply of the current wants of hospitals and camps, the maintenance in full strength and activity of our constantly increasing system of Special Relief, our Hospital Directory and Inspectorial Department. With the exception of the ill-fated Red River expedition, there has been really no military movement calling for special action on our part, and the only emergency which we have been called on to meet is that, if it may be so called,

created by the discovery of a wide-spread, indeed, almost universal, scorbutic taint among our troops. This cause, though operating insidiously, was most pregnant of evil, as it sapped the very foundations of health and vigor in those who were to need so much of both, for the arduous duties assigned to them. Unless corrected, this scorbutic tendency would not only impair the efficiency of our troops in every movement, but would increase the mortality from wounds received on the battle-field to a frightful degree. This impending evil was so formidable, that it demanded the most energetic measures for its eradication.

In this effort, the army officers of every grade united in the most harmonious co-operation with the Sanitary Commission, and through the combined efforts of the people at home, the Commission in the field, and the military and medical authorities, the tide of evil was arrested and rolled back.

The part taken by the Sanitary Commission in this great work may be inferred from the amount of their issues of anti-scorbutics, which have been made since the 1st of January in the Western Department, as follows:

80,640 gallons of kraut, 33,702 gallons of pickles, 25,000 bushels of potatoes, 4,600 bushels of onions, 8,500 gallons of ale, 25,143 pounds of cod-fish, 158,828 pounds of dried fruit, 43,477 pounds of condensed milk, 27,108 pounds of condensed beef, 16,343 cans of fruit; 1,160 bushels of fresh fruit, 1,500 gallons of apple-butter, 1,676 pounds of tea, 19,560 pounds of sugar, 83 boxes of oranges and lemons, 747 cans of oysters, 10,500 pounds of butter, with various other articles which might be properly included in this category, furnished in smaller quantities, but which need not be enumerated. From all sources we have testimony that this liberal supply of anti-scorbutics has been most efficient in checking the progress of scurvy, and in preparing our men for the hardships and casualties of the impending campaign.

The quantities cited above will doubtless appear respectably large, and yet, when it is remembered that they have been distributed to an army of two hundred thousand men, it will be seen that each one's share has been small indeed. In former times our efforts were limited to that portion of our army occupying the different military hospitals, but the splendid liberality exhibited by the people has, more recently, enabled us to reach with our gifts a large part of the troops in the field; among whom the vegetables, kraut, pickles, dried fruit, &c., enumerated in the list given above, have been distributed with a generous hand. With all our resources, and with every effort, however, we have not been able to reach all, and have fully supplied the wants of but few. Let no one, therefore, who has failed to receive any share of the gifts of the Commission, or has received what he has thought an inadequate quantity, not hastily conclude and assert that the Sanitary Commission is a humbug, but remember how immense is the demand it is expected to supply, and how many there are whose claims upon its charities are no less valid and pressing than his own.

In Kansas, the extreme limit of the western operations of the Commission, there has been prolonged quiet. Most of the troops have been removed farther south. Some forces, however, are left at important points. To the soldiers stationed near Leavenworth and at Fort Scott, our agent, Mr. J. B. Brown, assisted by Dr. Slocum, has distributed whatever stores he has had control of. These have not been equal, by any means, to the demand. It is hoped that with the progress of the season his supply will increase. Mr. Brown's labors have been much enlarged by the multitudinous calls made upon him by the contrabands and Southern refugees who have flocked into Kansas, without support, and utterly dependent upon charity.

In West Virginia, Mr. Price still acts as agent at Wheeling. A new agency has been established, and storehouses opened by Mr. Fracker, at Gallipolis.

Mr. Butler superintends the distribution of stores as well as the Soldiers' Home at Camp Nelson, where Rev. A. Payson has been assigned to duty as hospital visitor, and is doing excellent service.

At Cairo, Mr. Shipman has been thoroughly occupied with the large and numerous shipments made for points on the river below. No steamer has been in the charter of the Commission since Dr. Warriner's recent visit to Vicksburg—an account of which we gave in the last number of the *Reporter*. Goods are now sent from Cairo as often as possible by the regular boats. Most of them go no farther than Vicksburg, although some have been forwarded to New Orleans. The Cincinnati Branch has sent to that point a liberal supply.

To his varied and engrossing duties as general agent at Cairo, Mr. Shipman adds that of superintendent of the Soldiers' Home—no slight work in itself. Every one bears witness to the thoroughness, system and good order which characterize his management, and to his kindness and politeness to all who come in contact with him.

At Memphis, Mr. Carpenter still has charge of the storeroom, and Mr. Christy of the Lodge. The relative importance of Memphis has very much diminished, but the returns show that the Lodge is still enjoyed by a large number of soldiers otherwise unprovided for; and the issue of stores mounts up to a very generous aggregate.

The call from the hospitals there is likely to be large, as they will always have many inmates as long as battles take place below. Mr. Carpenter has recently left for Red River with all available stores, and it is hoped will do much to relieve the suffering in that comparatively remote region.

Mr. Way has charge of the storeroom at Vicksburg, and from this place or directly from Cairo, Natchez is furnished. At last accounts, there was a good supply at these places.

The hospital steamers that ply up and down the Mississippi frequently obtain supplies of vegetables and delicacies at Cairo. It is seldom that they make their appearance on the Ohio. A short time ago, however, the admirable and most comfortably managed hospital steamer R. C Wood, after undergoing repairs at New Albany, was ordered to Red River to receive a load of the wounded in the late expedition. It was the privilege of the Commission to add to her supplies by such contributions as the surgeons and experienced female nurses made requisitions for.

In addition to the special efforts made to check the progress of scurvy, to which reference has already been made, our work in the Army of the Cumberland has, of late, been almost entirely what may be termed *current business*. This, consisting in the maintenance of the numerous stations with all the different departments of the Commission's labor represented by them, has now assumed proportions, which, compared with our operations in past years, renders them almost insignificant.

The agency at Nashville, under the general supervision of Mr. Root, Dr. Read having gone to the front, has been so managed as to elicit warm commendation from the military and medical departments, and from numerous civilians who have inspected its work, and, so far as known, without a lisp of criticism from any source. The storehouse has been, as in months and years past, under the supervision of Mr. Robinson, who, with his assistants, has received and shipped the immense amount of stores passing through his hands with an accuracy and dispatch in the highest degree creditable.

The Home, under the management of Capt. Brayton, has greatly grown in usefulness, and now accommodates in comfort, almost in luxury, about two hundred discharged and furloughed soldiers a day.

At Murfreesboro', Stevenson and Huntsville, our agencies, in the hands of a sufficient number of experienced and trusty men, have been doing each its part in the great work of the Commission.

At Chattanooga our operations have been constantly expanding, until it has now become second to none of the agencies of the Commission in magnitude and importance. Dr. Read, as Chief Inspector of the Department, has made this his headquarters, while the business affairs of the agency have been, as heretofore, under the supervision of M. C. Read, assisted by a large corps of our most efficient and faithful agents. Nowhere has the value of the Commission's work been more generally recognized than at Chattanooga, and nowhere have the medical and military authorities given us more unmistakable evidence of their appreciation and good will. The hospital gardens at this point are fully realizing our most sanguine anticipations. They embrace over two hundred acres now in cultivation, and are already furnishing large quantities of early vegetables for the use of the troops.

At Knoxville, the agency has continued under the direction of Dr. M. M. Seymour, and if we may believe the testimony of the Commanding General of the Department, his Medical Director, Dr. Hewitt, the surgeons in charge of hospitals, and others, it has done much for the comfort and well-being of the troops, both in camp and hospital, in that department.

The hospital garden of about a hundred acres at Knoxville, in charge of Mr. Culbertson, is said to be the admiration of all beholders.

Within the last few weeks the energies of the representatives of the Commission have been directed toward a thorough preparation for the struggle which seemed to be impending between the Union and Confederate forces in Northern Georgia. With this object in view, our force at Chattanooga and vicinity was largely increased, a relief corps organized to accompany the army, and a large amount of battle stores, gathered by contributions from our Branch Commissions and by purchase, transported to the front. The great battles expected have not yet occurred, but sooner or later they are sure to come. It is believed that our preparations are ample. Among the stores now held in readiness for this expected demand may be enumerated: 5,000 shirts, 5,000 pairs of drawers, with other articles of bedding and clothing in like proportion; 5,000 pounds of concentrated beef, 10,000 pounds of condensed milk, 100 barrels of crackers, 2,000 pounds of dried fruit, 5,000 bottles of wine and spirit, 2,000 pounds of butter, 500 pounds of tea, 1,000 pounds of sugar, with oranges and lemons, codfish, oysters, ale, farina, pickles, saurkraut, vegetables, eggs, compresses, bandages, and whatever goes to make up the long list of articles needed to mitigate the sufferings of those who are destined to fall in the struggle.

With the advance of the army, frontier stations have been established at Cleveland, Ringgold and Dalton, where, while we write, an efficient corps of field agents are, as we know, engaged in their work of mercy.—*Sanitary Reporter.*

A SOLDIER'S TRIBUTE.

The following poem was addressed to Mrs. ——, by a private of the 16th Regt. New York Vols. He had been in her care on board of a Sanitary Commission boat at White House, Va. After he returned to the regiment he sent her these lines. Surely no lady has ever received a more graceful acknowledgment of kindness:

From old St. Paul till now,
Of honorable women not a few
Have left their golden ease, in love to do
The saintly work which Christ-like hearts pursue.

And such a one art thou—God's fair apostle,
Bearing His love in war's horrific train;
Thy blessed feet follow its ghastly pain,
And misery, and death, without disdain.

To one borne from the sullen battle's roar,
Dearer the greeting of thy gentle eyes,
When he, aweary, torn, and bleeding lies,
Than all the glory that the victors prize.

When peace shall come, and home shall smile again,
A thousand soldier-hearts, in Northern climes,
Shall tell their little children in their rhymes,
Of the sweet saint who blessed the old war-times.

ON THE CHICKAHOMINY, *June* 12, 1862.

A DAY IN THE CENTRAL OFFICE DURING GRANT'S ADVANCE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *May* 23, 1864.

I sit down for a moment. Mr. Editor, in the main business room of the Central Office of the Sanitary Commission, 244 F Street.

Groups of inquirers, in a steady stream—fathers, brothers, wives, sisters, mothers—are entering, and are referred to the spacious office, up stairs, of

THE HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

All night clerks have been engaged in enrolling in huge registers, of which each State has one or more, the names, received promptly and daily from the Medical Bureau, of the sick and wounded who have been brought in to general hospitals, and of the location and subsequent history of each. These are arranged under the *regiments* to which they belong, so that inquiries should always state the number of a wounded or deceased soldier's regiment, and, if possible, the letter of his company.

A sufficient force sits ready at the several desks to make the needed reference and reply. And each inquirer goes away relieved of suspense by certainty; and in a majority of cases a clue has been obtained to guide to the couch of the sufferer sought, or to the head-board of his new-made grave. Often it is suggested, when the individual name is not found, to take from the register a name or two from the list of his regiment, and so to learn from a wounded officer, messmate or kinsman, the last that was known of his fellow-soldier on the battle-field.

SUDDEN HEMORRHAGE.

I am called away. A soldier, furloughed at a hospital, in hesitating compliance with his longings for his home in ——, (A—— B——, —th —— Vols.,) has been suddenly stopped, while in search of his pay, by hemorrhage of the brachial artery. A bullet had gone through his arm above the elbow, diagonally, while he was putting a cap upon his gun-lock, and there is a call for lint and bandages, with the words, "I knew the Sanitary Commission would take care of him." He has been carried into Dr. Stone's office, and is soon kindly cared for by him, and then conducted to the Lodge on H Street, where he will be put all right and in due time forwarded on his way. He is pretty well bleached by loss of blood, and his hard hand lily-white.

"I *wanted* 'em," he said, "just to cut in and tie the artery, and make all tight; but the women told the doctor they thought it would get on without; and he ought not to have minded them. I have it tied now, any way. They put off another fellow that way, till he bled and bled—and his arm mortified, and then they cut it off, and then he died."

Well, A—— will get his ligature and a new shirt into the bargain, and his transportation—perhaps his back pay, if the rolls of his regiment are in—and then in the fresh air of —— he will soon be "fighting his battles o'er again," and a hero.

By the way, in bandaging his arm there was a revelation that furnishes a hint to

MAKING OF BANDAGES.

I had started with a pocket full from the ready stores in the office; and, to the great annoyance of the operator, (though borne with a patience that satisfied itself with some allusion to "the inexperienced good intention of some country girl,") an entangling fringe of loose threads bothered prodigiously.

Bandages are to be made by tearing, *not by cutting*, the cloth; and, second, all the loose threads are to be *picked* away, either before or after rolling.

If the Directory for Sick and Wounded—constantly guiding inquiries by letter, by telegraph, and by mail—were the only instruments of the Commission's function, it would well repay all outlay.

An agent of the Christian Commission comes in, memorandum book in hand. He desires to learn the whereabouts of a list of wounded. He is asked by me to write out their names and belongings distinctly on a slip of paper, and then goes up to the Directory. He returns in five minutes. "Did you find your men?" "Yes, sir, all of them—all right."

"Three thousand gone already to-day."

Many bags, full of letters, are now in the process of being sorted in my sight. They have been handed in at the tents and sheds of the Sanitary Commission at Belle Plain and Fredericksburg—and at "White Oak Church Shanty," half way between—by the wounded, and by the reinforcements passing to the front, and brought up here in the steamers of the Commission.

Some have postage stamps; others, and a very large portion, have none. They are carefully assorted here, postage stamps are attached at the expense of the Commission, and they are forwarded without delay. What fitter return to the homes that have filled the treasury could be made?

JACOB ——, OF MICHIGAN.

Do you see that bright-eyed, well-formed boy, of ten years old—the quickest, gayest, aptest of the workers in the letter room—plying, with the

quick stroke of a trip-hammer, the Sanitary Commission stamp with his nimble hand, and whistling at his work?

It is "*Jacob.*" He came in here from a transport load of wounded, soiled, begrimed, and footworn; the son of a soldier, whom he had followed in the army, and who had fallen—leaving Jacob fatherless.

What could be done but to wash, and clothe, and welcome him, and give him tasks level to his powers? And, now, the brightest, happiest, most touching sight in the office is "Jacob ——, of Michigan."

J. V.

CAMP COOKING.

Below is an order issued over a year ago to the Army of the Cumberland. It contains some hints of great value to the new troops who are now taking the field.

A great military chieftain once said, that "beans had killed more men than bullets." If this be true, it is not because of any inherent unwholesomeness in the beans, but because of the imperfect manner in which they were then and are now usually prepared for use. Very few of the articles used for food are deleterious in themselves; there are none which may not be made so by improper preparation or combination. Perhaps there is no one mode of cooking more universal and more mischievous than that of frying instead of broiling, and we respectfully suggest this as the point scarcely second in importance to the proper preparation of "soup"—which, according to the French maxim, "makes the soldier":

General Orders, No. 76.

To preserve as far as possible the health of the troops of this army, the following regulations, in regard to diet, are prescribed:

I. When in camp, cooking will be done by companies instead of squads.

II. Soup, made according to the following recipes, will be served up to the men, as follows:

1st. Beef soup, when fresh beef can be procured, twice a week.

2d. Soup made from beans or peas, twice a week, or oftener if desired by the men.

Beef and Vegetable Soup for Fifty Men.

Beef, (cut in pieces of 4 or 5 pounds each)	35 lbs.
Desiccated vegetables	3 lbs.
Rice	4 lbs.
Flour, sugar and salt, each	½ lb.
Pepper	½ oz.
Water	8 lbs.

Directions.—Soak the desiccated vegetables from reveille until after breakfast. Immediately after breakfast put all the ingredients into kettles at once, except the flour; set them over the fire, and when beginning to boil diminish the heat, and simmer down until eleven o'clock, then add to the soup the flour, which has been first mixed with enough water to form a thin batter, mix well together, and boil until noon. Sufficient hot water may be added from time to time to replace that lost in boiling. The soup should be stirred occasionally, to prevent burning or sticking to the sides of the kettle.

Note.—To make good beef soup, it must be borne in mind that the ingredients are put into cold water, and the heat gradually applied until near the boiling point, then simmer for several hours. By brisk boiling the exterior of the meat is hardened, and its juices will not be mixed with the water, but retained. The meat will also be tough and unpalatable. The desiccated vegetables should be well separated when put in water to soak.

Bean Soup for Fifty Men.

Beans	3 qts.
Bacon or pork	15 lbs.
Onions	3 do.
Pepper	½ oz.
Water	8 galls.

Directions.—Soak the beans over night; at reveille in the morning put them into vessels carefully cleaned, and boil steady until noon; then mash them with a spoon, or masher made for the purpose, and strain through a cullender if practicable.

Immediately after breakfast put the bacon, (or pork,) cut in pieces of from three to five pounds each, into another kettle with water, and boil for an hour; pour off the water, add the bacon to the soup, with onions (chopped fine) and pepper, and boil until noon. Remove the bacon, and cut into smaller pieces, suitable for serving with the soup.

Note.—In the preparation of this soup, soft or rain water should be used where practicable, and if a less quantity than that directed be put into the vessel, or if it becomes necessary, from long boiling, to add more, it should be boiling and not cold water. The bacon, after par-boiling, can be placed near the fire if the beans are not sufficiently soft to mash well. The reason for directing that the bacon be added after the beans are done, is that grease of any kind hardens them.

When peas are used in lieu of beans they should be treated in the same manner.

III. All commanding officers are charged to see that these orders are strictly enforced, and, that there may be no negligence on the part of company cooks, company officers will inspect the cooking every day, and see that it is properly done.

IV. The special attention of officers of the Inspector General's Department will be given to this matter, and they are directed to report the execution or neglect of these orders, by every regiment in the department, in their semi-monthly inspection reports.

V. The senior medical officer on duty with each regiment, will make a written report, on Monday of each week, to the Medical Director of the Department, through the intermediate medical officers, stating the number of times soup has been served to the men during the week, the kind, and the quality of the cooking.

The importance of wholesome food cannot be over-estimated, and the General Commanding enjoins upon the commanding officer of every regiment the necessity of enforcing these orders.

Improper and badly cooked food, eaten at unseasonable hours, is the cause of much of the sickness which thins our ranks and fills our hospitals.

NOTES ON NURSING.

WHAT FOOD.

I have known patients live for many months without touching bread, because they could not eat baker's bread. These were mostly country patients, but not all. Home-made bread or brown bread is a most important article of diet for many patients. The use of aperients may be entirely superseded by it. Oat cake is another.

To watch for the opinions, then, which the patient's stomach gives, rather than to read "analyses of foods," is the business of all those who have to settle what the patient is to eat—perhaps the most important thing to be provided for him after the air he is to breathe.

Now the medical man who sees the patient only once a day, or even only once or twice a week, cannot possibly tell this without the assistance of the patient himself, or of those who are in constant observation on the patient. The utmost the medical man can tell is whether the patient is weaker or stronger at this visit than he was at the last visit. I should therefore say that incomparably the most important office of the nurse, after she has taken care of the patient's air, is to take care to observe the effect of his food, and report it to the medical attendant.

It is quite incalculable the good that would certainly come from such *sound* and close observation in this almost neglected branch of nursing, or the help it would give to the medical man.

A great deal too much against tea is said by wise people, and a great deal too much of tea is given to the sick by foolish people. When you see the natural and almost universal craving in English sick for their "tea," you cannot but feel that nature knows what she is about. But a little tea or coffee restores them quite as much as a great deal, and a great deal of tea, and especially of coffee, impairs the little power of digestion they have. Yet a nurse, because she sees how one or two cups of tea or coffee restores her patient, thinks that three or four cups will do twice as much. This is not the case at all; it is, however, certain that there is nothing yet discovered which is a substitute to the English patient for his cup of tea; he can take it when he can take nothing else, and he often can't take any thing else if he has it not. I should be very glad if any of the abusers of tea would point out what to give to an English patient, after a sleepless night, instead of tea. If you give it at five or six o'clock in the morning, he may even sometimes fall asleep after it, and get perhaps his only two or three hours' sleep during the twenty-four. At the same time, you never should give tea or coffee to the sick, as a rule, after five o'clock in the afternoon. Sleeplessness in the early night is from excitement generally, and is increased by tea or coffee; sleeplessness which continues to the early morning is from exhaustion often, and is relieved by tea. The only English patients I have ever known refuse tea, have been typhus cases, and the first sign of their getting better was their craving again for tea. In general, the dry and dirty tongue always prefers tea to coffee, and will quite decline milk, unless with tea. Coffee is a better restorative than tea, but a greater impairer of the digestion. Let the patient's taste decide. You will say that, in cases of great thirst, the patient's craving decides that it will drink *a great deal* of tea, and that you cannot help it. But in these cases be sure that the patient requires diluent for quite other purposes than quenching the thirst; he wants a great deal of some drink, not only of tea, and the doctor will order what he is to have, barley water or lemonade, or soda water and milk, as the case may be.

It is made a frequent recommendation to persons about to incur great exhaustion, either from the nature of the service, or from their being not in a state fit for it, to eat a piece of bread before they go. I wish the recommenders would themselves try the experiment of substituting a piece of bread for a cup of tea or coffee, or beef-tea, as a refresher. They would find it a very poor comfort. When soldiers have to set out fasting on fatiguing duty, when nurses have to go fasting in to their patients, it is a hot restorative they want, and ought to have, before they go, not a cold bit of bread. And dreadful have been the consequences of neglecting this. If they can take a bit of bread *with* the hot cup of tea, so much the better, but not *instead* of it. The fact that there is more nourishment in bread than in almost any thing else, has probably induced the mistake. That it is a fatal mistake, there is no doubt. It seems, though very little is known on the subject, that what "assimilates" itself directly, and with the least trouble of digestion with the human body, is the best for the above circumstances. Bread requires two or three processes of assimilation before it becomes like the human body.

The almost universal testimony of English men and women who have undergone great fatigue, such as riding long journeys without stopping, or sitting up for several nights in succession, is that they could do it best upon an occasional cup of tea, and nothing else.

Let experience, not theory, decide upon this as upon all other things.

Lehman, quoted by Dr. Christison, says that, among the well and active, "the infusion of 1 oz. of roasted coffee daily will diminish the waste" going on in the body "by one-fourth," and Dr. Christison adds that tea has the same property. Now this is actual experiment. Lehman weighs the man, and finds the fact from his weight. It is not deduced from any "analysis" of food. All experience among the sick shows the same thing.

In making coffee, it is absolutely necessary to buy it in the berry and grind it at home. Otherwise you may reckon upon its containing a certain amount of chicory, *at least*. This is not a question of the taste, or of the wholesomeness of chicory. It is that chicory has nothing at all of the properties for which you give coffee. And therefore you may as well not give it.

Again, all laundresses, mistresses of dairy-farms, head nurses, (I speak of the good old sort only—women who unite a good deal of hard manual labor with the head-work neces-

sary for arranging the day's business, so that none of it shall tread upon the heels of something else,) set great value, I have observed, upon having a high-priced tea. This is called extravagant. But these women are "extravagant" in nothing else. And they are right in this. Real tea-leaf tea alone contains the restorative they want; which is not to be found in sloe-leaf tea.

The mistresses of houses, who cannot even go over their own house once a day, are incapable of judging for these women. For they are incapable themselves, to all appearance, of the spirit of arrangement (no small task) necessary for managing a large ward or dairy.

Cocoa is often recommended to the sick in lieu of tea or coffee. But, independently of the fact that English sick very generally dislike cocoa, it has quite a different effect from tea or coffee. It is an oily, starchy nut, having no restorative power at all, but simply increasing fat It is pure mockery of the sick, therefore, to call it a substitute for tea. For any renovating stimulus it has, you might just as well offer them chestnuts instead of tea.

An almost universal error among nurses is in the bulk of the food, and especially the drinks, they offer to their patients. Suppose a patient ordered 4 oz. brandy during the day. how is he to take this if you make it into four pints with diluting it? The same with tea and beef-tea, with arrowroot, milk, &c. You have not increased the nourishment, you have not increased the renovating power of these articles, by increasing their bulk—you have very likely diminished both by giving the patient's digestion more to do, and most likely of all, the patient will leave half of what he has been ordered to take, because he cannot swallow the bulk with which you have been pleased to invest it. It requires very nice observation and care (and meets with hardly any) to determine what will not be too thick or strong for the patient to take, while giving him no more than the bulk which he is able to swallow.

BED AND BEDDING.

A few words upon bedsteads and bedding; and principally as regards patients who are entirely, or almost entirely, confined to bed.

Feverishness is generally supposed to be a symptom of fever—in nine cases out of ten it is a symptom of bedding. The patient has had re-introduced into the body the emanations from himself which day after day and week after week saturate his unaired bedding. How can it be otherwise? Look at the ordinary bed in which a patient lies.

If I were looking out for an example in order to show what *not* to do, I should take the specimen of an ordinary bed in a private house: a wooden bedstead, two or even three mattresses piled up to above the height of a table; a valance attached to the frame—nothing but a miracle could ever thoroughly dry or air such a bed and bedding. The patient must inevitably alternate between cold damp after his bed is made, and warm damp before, both saturated with organic matter, and this from the time the mattresses are put under him till the time they are picked to pieces, if this is ever done.

If you consider that an adult in health exhales by the lungs and skin in the twenty-four hours three pints at least of moisture, loaded with organic matter ready to enter into putrefaction; that in sickness the quantity is often greatly increased, the quality is always more noxious—just ask yourself next where does all this moisture go to? Chiefly into the bedding, because it cannot go any where else. And it stays there; because, except perhaps a weekly change of sheets, scarcely any other airing is attempted. A nurse will be careful to fidgetiness about airing the clean sheets from clean damp, but airing the dirty sheets from noxious damp will never even occur to her. Besides this, the most dangerous effluvia we know of are from the excreta of the sick—these are placed, at least temporarily, where they must throw their effluvia into the under side of the bed, and the space under the bed is never aired; it cannot be, with our arrangements. Must not such a bed be always saturated, and be always the means of re-introducing into the system of the unfortunate patient who lies in it, that excrementitious matter to eliminate which from the body nature had expressly appointed the disease?

My heart always sinks within me when I hear the good house-wife, of every class, say, "I assure you the bed has been well slept in," and I can only hope it is not true. What? is the bed already saturated with somebody else's damp before my patient comes to exhale in it his own damp? Has it not had a single chance to be aired? No, not one. "It has been slept in every night."

The only way of really nursing a real patient is to have an *iron* bedstead, with rheocline springs, which are permeable by the air up to the very mattress, (no valance, of course,) the mattress to be a thin hair one; the bed to be not above 3½ feet wide. If the patient be entirely confined to his bed, there should be *two* such bedsteads; each bed to be "made" with mattress, sheets, blankets, &c., complete—the patient to pass twelve hours in each bed; on no account to carry his sheets with him. The whole of the bedding to be hung up to air for each intermediate twelve hours. Of course there are many cases where this cannot be done at all—many more where only an approach to it can be made. I am indicating the ideal of nursing, and what I have actually had done. But about the kind of bedstead there can be no doubt, whether there be one or two provided.

There is a prejudice in favor of a wide bed—I believe it to be a prejudice. All the refreshment of moving a patient from one side to the other of his bed is far more effectually secured by putting him into a fresh bed; and a patient who is really very ill does not stray far in bed. But it is said there is no room to put a tray down on a narrow bed. No good nurse will ever put a tray on a bed at all. If the patient can turn on his side, he will eat more comfortably from a bed side table; and on no account whatever should a bed ever be higher than a sofa. Otherwise the patient feels himself "out of humanity's reach;" he can get at nothing for himself; he can move nothing for himself. If the patient cannot turn, a table over the bed is a better thing. I need hardly say that a patient's bed should never have its side against the wall. The nurse must be able to get easily to both sides of the bed, and to reach easily every part of the patient without stretching—a thing im-

possible if the bed be either too wide or too high.

When I see a patient, in a room nine or ten feet high, upon a bed between four and five feet high, with his head, when he is sitting up in bed, actually within two or three feet of the ceiling, I ask myself, is this expressly planned to produce that peculiarly distressing feeling common to the sick, viz., as if the walls and ceiling were closing in upon them, and they becoming sandwiched between floor and ceiling, which imagination is not, indeed, here so far from the truth? If, over and above this, the window stops short of the ceiling, then the patient's head may literally be raised above the stratum of fresh air, even when the window is open. Can human perversity any farther go, in unmaking the process of restoration which God has made? The fact is, that the heads of sleepers, or of sick, should never be higher than the throat of the chimney, which ensures their being in the current of best air. And we will not suppose it possible that you have closed your chimney with a chimney board.

If a bed is higher than a sofa, the difference of the fatigue of getting in and out of bed will just make the difference, very often, to the patient (who can get in and out of bed at all) of being able to take a few minutes' exercise, either in the open air or in another room. It is so very odd that people never think of this, or of how many more times a patient who is in bed for the twenty-four hours is obliged to get in and out of bed than they are, who only, it is to be hoped, get into bed once and out of bed once during the twenty-four hours.

A patient's bed should always be in the lightest spot in the room; and he should be able to see out of window.

I need scarcely say that the old four-post bed with curtains is utterly inadmissible, whether for sick or well. Hospital bedsteads are in many respects very much less objectionable than private ones.

There is reason to believe that not a few of the apparently unaccountable cases of scrofula among children proceed from the habit of sleeping with the head under the bed clothes, and so inhailing air already breathed, which is farther contaminated by exhaltations from the skin. Patients are sometimes given to a similar habit, and it often happens that the bed clothes are so disposed that the patient must necessarily breathe air more or less contaminated by exhalations from his skin. A good nurse will be careful to attend to this. It is an important part, so to speak, of ventilation.

It may be worth while to remark, that where there is any danger of bed-sores a blanket should never be placed *under* the patient. It retains damp and acts like a poultice.

Never use anything but light Whitney blankets as bed covering for the sick. The heavy cotton impervious counterpane is bad, for the very reason that it keeps in the emanations from the sick person, while the blanket allows them to pass through. Weak patients are invariably distressed by a great weight of bed clothes, which often prevents their getting any sound sleep whatever.

One word about pillows. Every weak patient, be his illness what it may, suffers more or less from difficulty in breathing. To take the weight of the body off the poor chest, which is hardly up to its work as it is, ought therefore to be the object of the nurse in arranging his pillows. Now what does she do and what are the consequences? She piles the pillows one-a-top of the other like a wall of bricks. The head is thrown upon the chest. And the shoulders are pushed forward, so as not to allow the lungs to expand. The pillows, in fact, lean upon the patient, not the patient upon the pillows. It is impossible to give a rule for this, because it must vary with the figure of the patient. And tall patients suffer much more than short ones, because of the *drag* of the long limbs upon the waist. But the object is to support, with the pillows, the back *below* the breathing apparatus, to allow the shoulders room to fall back, and support the head, without throwing it forward. The suffering of dying patients is immensely increased by neglect of these points. And many an invalid, too weak to drag about his pillows himself, slips his book or anything at hand behind the lower part of his back to support it.

LIGHT.

It is the unqualified result of all my experience with the sick, that second only to their need of fresh air is their need of light; that, after a close room, what hurts them most is a dark room. And that it is not only light but direct sun-light they want. I had rather have the power of carrying my patient about after the sun, according to the aspect of the rooms, if circumstances permit, than let him linger in a room when the sun is off. People think the effect is upon the spirits only. This is by no means the case. The sun is not only a painter but a sculptor. You admit that he does the photograph. Without going into any scientific expositions we must admit that light has quite as real and tangible effects upon the human body. But this is not all. Who has not observed the purifying effect of light, and especially of direct sunlight, upon the air of a room? Here is an observation within everybody's experience. Go into a room where the shutters are always shut. (in a sick room or a bed room there should never be shutters shut,) and though the room be uninhabited, though the air has never been polluted by the breathing of human beings, you will observe a close, musty smell of corrupt air, of air *i. e.* unpurified by the effect of the sun's rays. The mustiness of dark rooms and corners, indeed, is proverbial. The cheerfulness of a room, the usefulness of light in treating disease is all-important.

A very high authority in hospital construction has said that the people do not enough consider the difference between wards and dormitories in planning their buildings. But I go farther, and say, that healthy people never remember the difference between *bed*-rooms and *sick*-rooms, in making arrangements for the sick. To a sleeper in health it does not signify what the view is from his bed. He ought never to be in it excepting when asleep, and at night. Aspect does not very much signify either, (provided the sun reach his bed-room some time in every day, to purify the air,) because he ought never to be in his bed-room except during the hours when there is no sun. But the case is exactly reversed with the sick, even should they

be as many hours out of their beds as you are in yours, which probably they are not. Therefore, that they should be able, without raising themselves or turning in bed, to see out of window from their beds, to see sky and sunlight at least, if you can show them nothing else, I assert to be, if not of the very first importance for recovery, at least something very near it. And you should therefore look to the position of the beds of your sick one of the very first things. If they can see out of two windows instead of one, so much the better. Again, the morning sun and the mid-day sun—the hours when they are quite certain not to be up, are of more importance to them, if a choice must be made, than the afternoon sun. Perhaps you can take them out of bed in the afternoon and set them by the window, where they can see the sun. But the best rule is, if possible, to give them direct sunlight from the moment he rises till the moment he sets.

Another great difference between the *bed*-room and the *sick*-room is, the *sleeper* has a very large balance of fresh air to begin with, when he begins the night, if his room has been open all day as it ought to be; the *sick* man has not, because all day he has been breathing the air in the same room, and dirtying it by the emanations from himself. Far more care is therefore necessary to keep up a constant change of air in the sick room.

It is hardly necessary to add that there are acute cases, (particularly a few ophthalmic cases, and diseases where the eye is morbidly sensitive,) where a subdued light is necessary. But a dark north room is inadmissible even for these. You can always moderate the light by blinds and curtains.

Heavy, thick, dark window or bed curtains should, however, hardly ever be used for any kind of sick in this country. A light white curtain at the head of the bed is, in general, all that is necessary, and a green blind to the window, to be drawn down only when necessary.

One of the greatest observers of human things, (not physiological,) says, in another language: "Where there is sun there is light." All physiology goes to confirm this. Where is the shady side of deep vallies, there is cretinism. Where are cellars and the unsunned sides of narrow streets, there is the degeneracy snd weaklines of the human race—mind and body equally degenerating. Put the pale withering plant and human being into the sun, and, if not too far gone, each will recover health and spirit.

It is a curious thing to observe how almost all patients lie with their faces turned to the light, exactly as plants always make their way towards the light; a patient will even complain that it gives him pain "lying on that side." "Then why *do* you lie on that side?" He does not know—but we do. It is because it is the side towards the window. A fashionable physician has recently published in a government report that he always turns his patient's faces from the light. Yes, but nature is stronger than fashionable physicians, and depend upon it she turns the faces back and *towards* such light as she can get. Walk through the wards of a hospital, remember the bed sides of private patients you have seen, and count how many sick you ever saw lying with their faces toward the windows. —*Miss Nightingale.*

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